

LANSING AND ITS YESTERDAYS



*A collection of Historical
Material from the*

75th
ANNIVERSARY
EDITION

*of THE
STATE JOURNAL*

ALBION



COLLEGE

574
L2
S75

**STOCKWELL - MUDD
LIBRARIES
ALBION, MI 49224-1879**

MADE IN U.S.A.
1975
MADE IN U.S.A.

STOCKWELL-MUDD LIBRARIES
SPECIAL COLLECT F574.L2S75
Lansing and its yesterdays



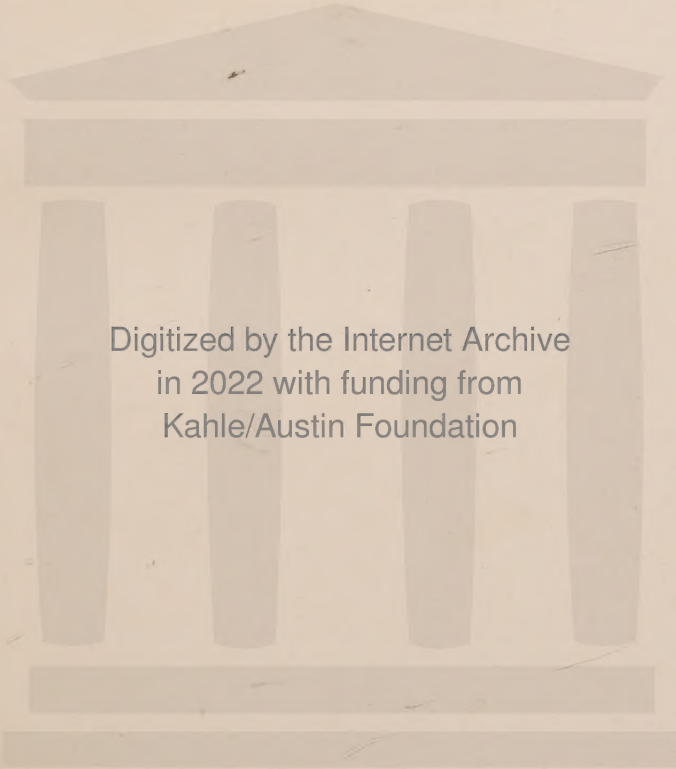
3 5044 00284 8148

The person borrowing this item is responsible for its return to the library on or before the **Latest Date** stamped below.

Overdue fines accrue at the rate of \$.50 per day until the maximum fine is reached. A **minimum** \$50.00 replacement bill will then be issued.

STOCKWELL-MUDD LIBRARIES, Albion College

WITHDRAWN
FROM
ALBION COLLEGE LIBRARY



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2022 with funding from
Kahle/Austin Foundation

THE STATE JOURNAL



75th
Anniversary
Edition
1855 - 1930



Michigan's
Great
Capital
Daily



Lansing,
Michigan,
January
First,
1930

This is the reproduction, reduced, of the cover page of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary edition of The State Journal, published January 1, 1930

Lansing and Its Yesterdays

A Compilation of a Portion of the Historical Material
Published in the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary
Edition of The Lansing State
Journal, January 1, 1930.

-O-

LANSING

::

::

MICHIGAN

Copyright, 1930
by
The State Journal Company
Lansing, Michigan

F
574
.L2S75

37075

PUBLISHER'S FOREWORD

Seventy-five years ago The Lansing State Journal was founded. Its start was as humble, as inconspicuous and as courageous as was that of the community with which it cast its lot.

In the files of The State Journal is to be found the daily story of Lansing and its people; a story of achievement which raised a community from the obscurity of a colony in the wilderness, to a city whose name and whose products are known today the world over.

In the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Edition of The State Journal, published January 1, 1930, the story of the city and of the state was told. In scores of articles and with countless illustrations an effort was made to record as completely as possible the history of the city and of the courageous men and women who made that city possible.

The publication of that edition brought a demand from many quarters that at least a part of the historical matter contained therein be preserved in book form. It is because of this request that this little volume has been prepared.

It is but a small fraction of the material that was printed in the edition, compiled with the one thought of giving to posterity a brief story, in newspaper style, of Lansing and its yesterdays.

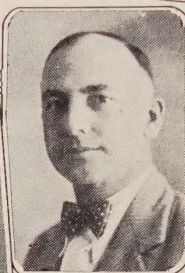
And to those men and women, whose names, whose vision and whose courage are inseparably woven into the warp and woof of this prosperous community, the volume is respectfully dedicated.

THE STATE JOURNAL COMPANY

Departmental Executives *The* LANSING STATE JOURNAL 1930



R. V. DEBARRY
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER.



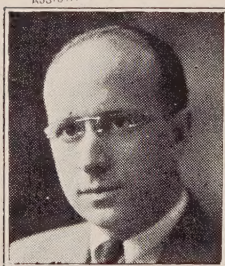
H. A. WOOTON
BUSINESS MANAGER.



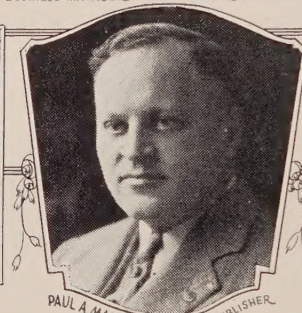
KENNETH C. PARK.
MANAGING EDITOR.



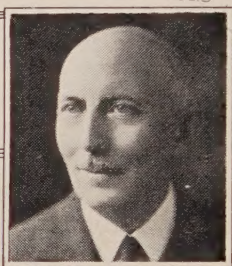
JOSEPH F. FOLTZ
ADVERTISING MANAGER.



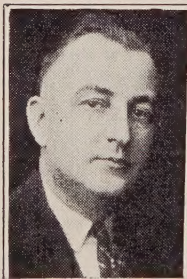
CARL J. WOODRUFF
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING MANAGER.



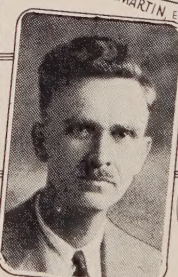
PAUL A. MARTIN, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.



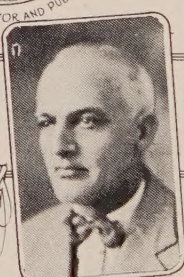
HERBERT J. BAKER,
NATIONAL ADVERTISING MANAGER.



JOSEPH S. BATEMAN
PROMOTION MANAGER.



GUY SONNEBORN
PRESS ROOM SUPERINTENDENT



ED PARKS
STEREOTYPING SUPERINTENDENT



A. M. JULLIEN
MECHANICAL SUPERINTENDENT



AUGUST S. DYKE
TRANSPORTATION SUPERINTENDENT



GUY COX
SUPERINTENDENT MAILING ROOM



JOSEPH H. CREIGHTON
HISTORIAN



GLENN K. STIMSON
EDITORIAL WRITER.



THE STATE JOURNAL BUILDING AS IT APPEARS TODAY

A Rededication to Service

Marking as it does, today, the 75th anniversary of its service to Lansing and Central Michigan, and, in some peculiar degree to the state itself, The State Journal takes this occasion to offer itself in rededication to all the good causes that have brought abundant life.

Seventy-five years ago wild turkey might be shot to supply the family larder three blocks west of where is now the capitol. Sturgeon, nearly as large as a man, could be caught in the Grand River. Indian boys played with white boys in the little town. Life was crude.

It was in a time of crudity and of poverty and of none too great promise, for the immediate future at least, that this newspaper joined its fortunes with that of Lansing. In poverty and in riches; in sickness and in health; in bad times and in good; in discouragement and in days of great promise, The State Journal, under one name or another, under one form or another, has stuck by the city of its first choice, and has grown with it.

A newspaper is more than a business. A newspaper is a business as truly as is the selling of nails, and cheese and calico and whatnot, but a newspaper is still more. The intangible newspaper is difficult to define, but, difficult as is the definition, people instinctively recognize the extra measure of service beyond the dollars and cents service a newspaper gives to the community.

A newspaper is more—constantly becomes more—than those who own and those who make it. There is a long roll of those who have carried title to the property in their name, and there is a longer roll of those who have given their bit to this newspaper and then passed on. The State Journal is today more than the sum total of all those who have been connected with it in any capacity.

In its business and in all those ways of length, breadth, height, depth and ponderable qualities, The State Journal has lived and prospered along with Lansing. In these respects it has taken its place as a business entity in the Lansing business world and it has prospered. It has given and taken value received. It hopes, and confidently expects, so to continue.

But in respect to its surplusage of spirit, in its scripture measure of usefulness, in that value for which there is no bargaining and no price The State Journal comes this day to rededicate that service, that intangible value to Lansing and to all its people and to all those varied institutions it serves.

Through the years since the wild turkeys and the Indians were here, this paper has sought ever to give the best that it had for its city and state and nation. By its performance in the past, it pledges anew the service of surplusage of spirit, to be with the city and with the community in the great future that awaits and even now opens as we wait.

-

This plate is a photographic reproduction of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary editorial, written by Glenn K. Stimson, as it appeared in print January 1, 1930

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EARLY DEVELOPMENTS IN CENTRAL MICHIGAN

"Biddle City"	2	Where Lansing Gets Its Name	5
Ingham County's Name	5	Lansing's First House	7

THE CAPITOL COMES TO LANSING

The Legislative Joker	10	Michigan's Six State Buildings	16
"Michigan" Becomes "Lansing"	15		

JOURNALISM IN LANSING

An Editor Arrives	20	Other Old Lansing Papers	37
The "Republican" and The "Journal"	25		

CHIEF OKEMOS

"Me Big Chief; Fight Plenty Once!"	39	Latter Days and Burial of Okemos ..	43
--	----	-------------------------------------	----

THE ELECTION OF 1856

Democrats Gird for Battle	48	The Cannon Incident	54
Ingham County Goes Republican	51		

EDUCATIONAL BEGINNINGS

Michigan Agricultural College	56	Michigan Female College	62
-------------------------------------	----	-------------------------------	----

FROM MUD TO MODERNITY

Pioneer Hotels	70	Lansing's Pioneer Theaters	98
How the Downey Hotel Was Financed ..	77	The Earliest Banks	102
The Mineral Well Hotel	79	History of the Fire Department	105
Lansing's Eight Post Offices	80	LANSING IN THE CIVIL WAR	111
Lansing Builds 40 Bridges	83	LANSING AND HOWELL PLANK	
Some Pioneer Businesses	93	ROAD	115

RECREATION OF YESTERDAY

"Toe Tripping" in the 1850's	119	"We Had a Big Show"	123
The Grand River Boat Club	121	Lansing Woman's Club	125

LANSING EMERGES

Early Population Figures	127	Mayors and Governors for 75 Years ..	132
Public Officials in 1855	128	Public Officials in 1930	134
Lansing's First Council Meeting	130	History of State Seal and Flag	137

MISCELLANEOUS SKETCHES

EARLY HISTORICAL INCIDENTS

The Smoky Fall of 1856	139	Fourth of July, 1855	142
Wooden Sidewalks in 1855	140	Squire Havens' Whisky Glass	145

DESCRIPTIONS OF EARLY LANSING

"Michigan, Mich." in 1847	148	Commercial Advertisements in 1905 ..	156
Map of Lansing, 1859	151	"Greater Lansing" in 1906	158
Lansing in 1890	155		

CLOSE GLIMPSES OF JOURNALISM

One Editor to Another	163	Sketch of John A. Kerr, Editor	168
Gifts for the Editor	167	The "Journal" Fire of 1857	171

LIST OF FULL PAGE ILLUSTRATIONS

Anniversary Edition Cover	Preface	101
State Journal Departmental		
Heads	Preface	
The State Journal Buildings	Preface	
James P. Edmonds	2	
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel S. Mevis	3	
Michigan's Capitols	16	
State Capitol during Construction ...	17	
Original State Republican Building ..	24	
Second State Republican Building ...	25	
Chief John Okemos	40	
Tombstone of Chief Okemos	41	
"Saint's Rest," M. A. C.	56	
First Four Faculty Members, M. A. C. .	57	
Freshman's Diary	58	
First Buildings, M. A. C.	59	
President Roosevelt at M. A. C.	60	
"Split Rock"	61	
Michigan Female College	66	
School for the Blind, 1904	67	
Old Union School	68	
Central High's First 11 Classes	69	
Old Lansing Hotels	70	
The Hudson House	76	
Downey House Bar	77	
Lt. Luther Byron Baker	78	
Mineral Well Hotel	79	
Turner's Grocery Store	82	
Post Office Force, 1893	82	
Whitehead's Feed Store	83	
Michigan Avenue Bridge, 1858	86	
Michigan Avenue Bridge, 1871	87	
Flood of 1904	90	
Buck's Opera House	98	
Bijou Theater Lobby	99	
Episcopal Church on Washington avenue	100	
"Buck's Corner," 1870	101	
Lansing Horse Cars	102	
Lansing's Main Corner, 1855	103	
Firemen's Ball Invitation	108	
Steam Fire Engine	109	
Lansing's Police Force, 1890	110	
Lansing's First Motorized Police "Wagon"	111	
Stage Coach Poster	116	
Olds Motor Works, 1902	117	
First Oldsmobile, 1899	118	
Reo's Old Test Track	119	
Benton House Party Invitation	120	
Grand River Boat Club Crew	121	
Lansing Bicycle Club	126	
Ten Former Mayors	127	
E. H. Porter's Home	132	
Lansing Street Parade	133	
Old Pearl Mill	138	
Lansing's Old Churches	139	
Thoman's Mill Corner, 1860's	140	
Lansing's Plank Walks	141	
Cottrell's Photograph Shop; Dan- iel's Livery Stable	146	
Old Parmalee Woolen Mill	147	
First Downtown Stores	152	
West Michigan Avenue, 1880	153	
North Washington Avenue, 1890 ...	156	
Franklin Avenue, 1900	157	
Street Scenes, 1890	160	
Historic Lansing Views	161	
State Republican "Liner" Ads	166	
Michigan and Washington Avenues of Yesterday	167	
Capital Bank Tower Steel Work, 1930	174	
Clipping From State Journal, May 19, 1930	175	

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

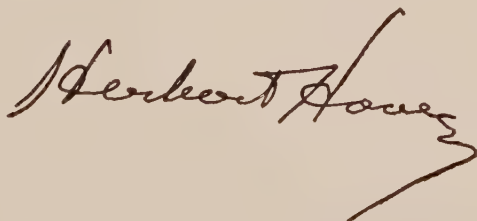
December 23, 1929.

To the Publisher
The Lansing State Journal,
Lansing, Michigan.

My dear Sir:-

I congratulate you cordially upon the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Lansing State Journal, and wish you all success in continuing its historic tradition of service to high ideals and the public good.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Herbert Hoover". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

EARLY DEVELOPMENTS IN CENTRAL MICHIGAN

"BIDDLE CITY"

LANSING, to which the removal of the state capital, at a time when no such town existed, was first suggested as a joke, has an even earlier phase which reflects another vagary in the constitutional mental make-up of man—a real estate swindle by which lots in an imaginary city platted here, were sold to eastern farmers, 12 years before there was even a straggling settlement of half a dozen families on the site of the city of today. While a forest truly primeval stood on the land where Lansing is built today, real estate operators had "sold" the town of "Biddle City," elegantly laid out on paper, to those who cut their eye teeth on one of the first of several such "wild cat" land schemes perpetrated about that time in this state.

Some of the first white men to enter central Michigan came to build their homes on lots which they had purchased in the apparently thriving and busy town, "Biddle City," even if they were too disappointed to stay here.

Not only was the entire paper city under the waters of the Grand and Red Cedar rivers, swollen by spring floods, but, to cap the climax, the land under this water was already owned by a wealthy New Yorker, when the rugged and trusting purchasers of "land" finally arrived here, after a terrifically hard battle to make the trip, by water and on foot, through the wilderness. The innermost recesses of Australia are not less

promising as real estate investments than was "Biddle City," when it was sold.

First Settlers

In the winter of 1835, two young men from New York state penetrated the interior of Michigan, as "wood cruisers" as other early explorers had done at about that period. They spent some time in the shack of William Gilkey, who lived somewhat north of where Lansing was to stand, a dozen years later. It was during the long winter that these young men planned their swindle. Perhaps they really planned to have a town of their own; perhaps the thing started as a bit of harmless imagery, in the first place, but in view of the fact that their sales talk back in New York state indicated that the "city" was already laid out and well started, the thing transcended all bounds of decency. They mapped out their town as lying approximately where south Lansing lies today, named the streets, and altogether made a very pretty sort of pipe dream to conjure up before the credulous eyes of their friends back in New York state.

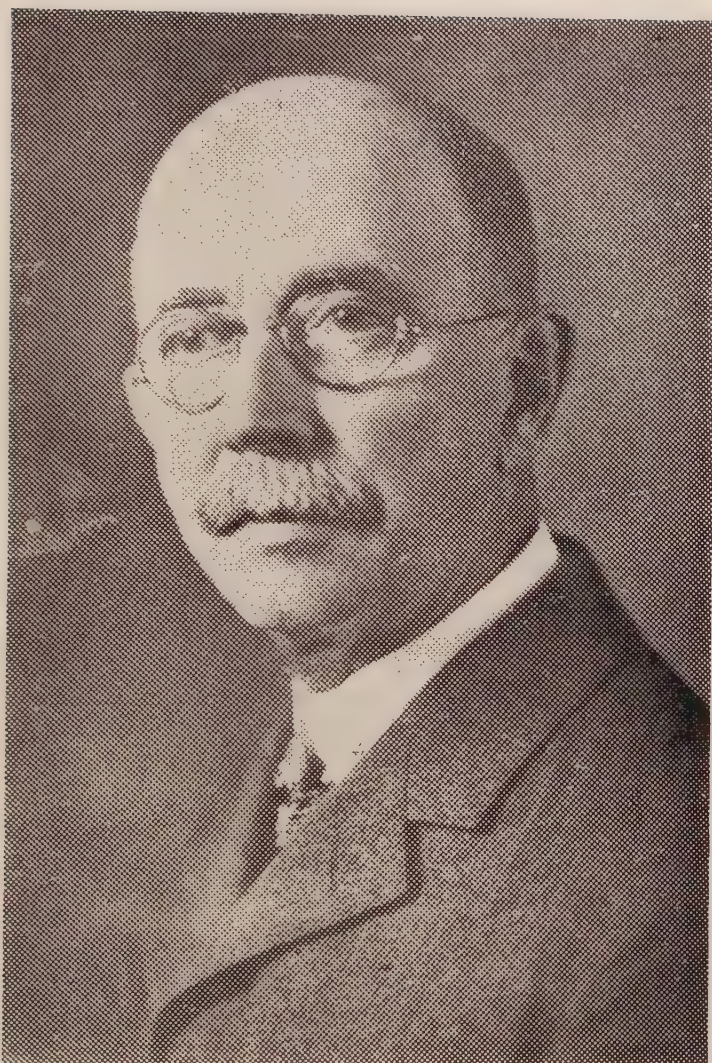
William and Jerry Ford, the young men with the bright ideas, went back to their home state and started to peddle their worthless lots, already owned by another. Perhaps they did not know that William H. Townsend of New York already owned the entire area, even though he had never seen it. But they might have investigated that little detail.

The "town" was named for Maj. John Biddle, of Detroit, prominent in the territory of, and later, state of Michigan.

First Lansing

In the winter of 1836, they canvassed the town of Lansing, Tompkins county, N. Y., representing the city as already started "at the junction of the Grand and Red Cedar rivers, central Michigan." The farmers were interested, and meetings with the Fords were held—many of them in the home of Daniel Buck, father of Daniel W. Buck, Lansing (Mich.) pioneer. A group of 16 men bought the first lots in "Biddle City," and shortly after started west to make their fortunes in timber, and farm products after the timber was cleared from the wild land supposed to surround the city.

Perhaps if the New York stagers were gullible enough to believe that a going little city of 65 blocks, with a church square, a public square and an academy square, could possibly exist, surrounded by a dense forest, with no means of transportation through the woods, the Fords might have felt justified in

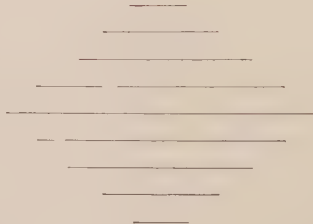


JAMES P. EDMONDS

To this man, The State Journal acknowledges its debt. Known familiarly, and rightly, as Lansing's unofficial historian, his collection of pictures of early life here, is unrivalled. His historical knowledge of pioneer Lansing has been acquired through research, his favorite hobby. His recollections and his pictures were placed freely at the disposal of this newspaper during the preparation of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary edition



Two of the oldest pioneers of the city of Lansing are here shown. They are Mr. and Mrs. Daniel S. Mevis, 528 West Lapeer street. Mr. Mevis, who came to Lansing with his father in 1847, perpetuated many of his early day memories by the publication, in 1911, of "Pioneer Recollections," which book was a valued source of information, in many instances, in the preparation of the anniversary edition of The State Journal. "Uncle Dan" Mevis was the first office boy and carrier of the old State Republican, when this newspaper was first published in 1855, and two generations later that newspaper published the book based on his boyhood experiences. Mr. Mevis, 93, claims to be the only man living who has seen and spoken to every Michigan governor, from Lewis Cass to Fred W. Green



EARLY DEVELOPMENTS IN CENTRAL MICHIGAN 3

taking their money. Anyway, without passing any more judgment, the lots were sold.

For a full description of the appearance of "Biddle City" on paper, The State Journal is indebted to James P. Edmonds, who wrote an article for this newspaper which was published March 27, 1926, part of which follows:

"The land covered by the plat comprised almost all of the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 21, all of which now lies within the city limits, and at the present time would be bounded as follows: North by Grand river and Grand Trunk railroad, east by Bailey street, south by Mt. Hope avenue, and west by a line 10 rods west of Sycamore street. This plat is on page 1, liber 6, in the register's office, Mason."

Were City Planners

The men who had the bitter experience of finding out about the fraud started from Lansing, Tompkins county, N. Y., chosen as representatives of a larger group who had also bought lots. The vanguard was to precede the others, to secure the purchases. Daniel Buck and Joseph E. North were among the 16 who came west.

The long trip was made in the usual way: down the Erie canal (Clinton's "Big Ditch"), the length of Lake Erie, thence to Detroit. No one there had ever heard of "Biddle City." The rivers on which it was located were known, but everyone who was consulted told the 16 men that for miles around there was nothing but a howling wilderness. They pressed on to Pontiac, on foot, of course. No one there knew anything about this thriving bee hive of activity that the Ford rascals had talked about so glibly. Three or four members of the party were too disheartened to press on; they stayed in Pontiac and settled. The rest hired guides to take them through the vast forest, and they eventually reached a spot where DeWitt, north of Lansing, now stands. There they found a settler named Scott. He had heard some vague reports of this "Biddle City" but directed the party to the home of his neighbor, William Gilkey, who lived 10 miles south. The trail was getting "warm" by then, to hear of someone who knew there was such a thing as this city in which they had invested their savings.

Mr. Gilkey piloted the men south to the rise of land on the north bank of Grand river, about where R. E. Olds' home stands today, on the northwest corner of South Washington avenue and West Main street, and spread his hand over the low lying land to the south, in the peninsula between that

river and the Red Cedar river, and said dramatically: "There, gentlemen, is 'Biddle City.'" Every lot was under water raised by the heavy spring floods. Then the settler told the New Yorkers the real story of Jerry and William Ford. He added that William H. Townsend, New York state, owned the land in the first place.

But William Gilkey encouraged the victims of the cheap and petty fraud by telling them that their opportunity still lay in those lands. "You are looking at the greatest country God ever made," Gilkey is quoted as saying. "The land can be bought for ten shillings an acre and the timber is of the finest quality in the world," went on the settler.

Some Buy Twice

Daniel Buck and Joseph E. North apparently hadn't spent all their money on lots of the paper city, for they bought large tracts in the section Gilkey had shown them, which means that they merely paid twice for the same land. The others of the party were too chilled with chagrin to stay in this section. Albert E. Cowles' history records that, "a Mr. Atwood went to what is now Dansville, while Messrs. Townley, Ludlow and others went to Jackson county, and the towns of Parma and Tompkins Center bear record by their names that their founders did not forget the homes from which they came."

Later, when Jackson and Ingham counties were divided into townships, the men who bought land near "Biddle City" named the land around it "Lansing township" in honor of their New York state home. Thus the city of Lansing eventually acquired its name.

Buck and North went back to New York state themselves, but after a short time, North sold his home in the east and came here with his family of eight sons and two daughters. Levi Buck, son of Daniel, and two nephews, Able Miller and Peter Clark, and another man, Monroe Packard, came in 1839, to settle, for a time at least, on the land the elder Buck had purchased, according to D. W. Buck. Daniel Buck did not return, however. Another son, Daniel W., came to Lansing at a later period, however, and became a leading citizen of Lansing.

The settlement of the township was forecast; it was only two years later that John W. Burchard bought land to the north from James Seymour, and built the first log house in what is now the city of Lansing.

Perhaps one can trace some indirect benefit from the

EARLY DEVELOPMENTS IN CENTRAL MICHIGAN 5

trick by which the early eastern farmers were mulcted; some of them started settlements in the heart of Michigan in days when Lansing's history had yet to begin.

INGHAM COUNTY'S NAME

INGHAM county was named at least five years before John I. Davis, the first white man to enter it, settled in Stockbridge county, on the southern border. By an act of the territorial legislature dated October 29, 1829, this county was named and designated. The county was the namesake of Samuel D. Ingham, secretary of the treasury in the administration of President Andrew Jackson at the time. Nine counties in southern Michigan were set off and named by the same legislative act, and many of them were named for members of the cabinet; thus the counties have been termed "the cabinet counties." Jackson county's name, received then, is thus obvious. Among the others were Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Eaton and Van Buren, and others not named for cabinet members, including Kalamazoo, Hillsdale and St. Joseph counties.

Mr. Ingham, if he was interested in the welfare and progress of "his" county, could have watched its history from the time no white man had ever crossed its imaginary boundaries, to the time of his death, in 1860, when considerable importance attached to it. The capital was here, the county's population was more than 17,000 and Lansing was a city.

WHERE LANSING GETS ITS NAME

THE city of Lansing derived its name from the man whose picture is shown on the next page—Chancellor John Lansing of New York state, who died in 1829, years before any but Indians had laid eyes on the wild timberland which stretched over the present site of this city.

The connection, however remote it might seem at the outset, is simple: Lansing, a village in New York state, named for Chancellor Lansing, was the home of several of the pioneers who settled here in the 1830's. They wished to preserve the name of their former home—hence, Lansing. The name was given to the township when it was organized by the legislature, February 16, 1842; the city was so named by the legislature of 1848.

John Lansing was an eminent jurist, born in 1754. He was a Revolutionary figure, member of congress from his state,



CHANCELLOR JOHN LANSING

and was elected, in 1784, to the lower house of the New York state legislature. He became speaker of the house in 1786. Four years later he was appointed a justice of the state supreme court, followed in 1798 by his elevation to the chief justice's bench. From 1801 until 1814, he was chancellor of the state, the exact status of which rank is vague, even if apparently exalted.

EARLY DEVELOPMENTS IN CENTRAL MICHIGAN 7

Credit for suggesting the name "Lansing" for the township in question is given, in Fuller's "Historic Michigan," to Joseph E. North, jr., who is said to have advocated the name at the first township meeting "held at a big stump near the Cedar river on the Mason road." North wanted to name the township for his former home in Tompkins county, N. Y., on the east side of Cayuga lake.

LANISING'S FIRST HOUSE

HISTORY of the city of Lansing is marked, at its outset, by three significant dates: 1843, when the first house was built; 1847, when the village was designated the capital of the state; 1859, when it was incorporated into a city. There are dates earlier than 1841 in its history, but anyone essaying to be dogmatic about what white man first set foot on the land now occupied by Lansing, gets off into deep water without ceremony.

There are clamorous voices raised in behalf of James Seymour as the first settler in what is now Lansing; there are histories which disagree on this point. One thing that is definitely and pointedly known is that on October 13, 1841, John W. Burchard bought land from James Seymour on which he erected in 1843, the first log house where north Lansing is now. The exact location of this house, as given by Albert E. Cowles, historian, is: "On the east side of Grand river, at what is North Lansing, a few rods west of what is now Center street, and north of what is now Wall street." This fixes it as being about one city block east of the Grand river, just south of East Grand River avenue. This log house, enlarged, is believed to have been converted into the "Grand River house," Lansing's pioneer "hotel."

Burchard moved his family, consisting of his wife, a boy, John, and a girl, Louise, to the house, and built a dam across the Grand river at this point. He was preparing to build a mill at the dam when the spring rains of 1844 made a break in the dam. Burchard went out in a canoe to inspect the break, on April 7, and, sucked under the waterfall, was drowned. The family moved away, and the land and water rights adjacent reverted to James Seymour. This much for John W. Burchard.

Seymour Lived in New York

The question arises: Where was Seymour during this

time? His home was in New York state; he had rangers in this section exploring public lands for him.

Seymour had men in this district years before he himself was ever here. The Detroit Advertiser and Tribune, in an article reprinted by The State Republican for April 8, 1863, has this to say of that phase of Lansing's history: "In 1836, Mr. S. S. Olcott was entering and exploring public lands for Messrs. Lee, Seymour, and Bushnell, of Rochester."

The history, written with meticulous attention to details, goes on to mention that Olcott had written back glowing descriptions of the possibilities of the land here "on the peninsula west of Grand river." Later he made the first actual attempt to build a house here. This was apparently in 1836. Olcott spent \$250 erecting the body of a large log house on the exact site where the Seymour house later stood, and ran out of money. He had brought his tools and provisions from Mar, shall, on horseback. A forest fire later burned the shell down. It is a certainty that Seymour was in Rochester at this time.

No further effort at house building was made until Burchard built his house, as previously described, according to the Detroit newspaper history. This history credits C. C. Darling, of Eaton Rapids, and later a Lansing hotel man, with helping Burchard. Burchard's house was about five rods southwest of the Seymour house site. When Seymour purchased the Burchard property at the administrator's sale, he let the job of finishing the dam to Joab Page, Whitney Smith and George Pease. This would again indicate that, even if Seymour was here, he wasn't a settler in any sense of the word; and the plainest indication is that he wasn't here yet.

"About the first of December, 1846, the mill was running. These contractors continued to reside on these premises during the years 1845 and 1846," the Detroit newspaper went on, categorically. There was no mention of Seymour. He is thought to have come here in 1847, for in that year he is recorded to have proffered his town site to the state, for its new capitol building, to be erected in Lansing township.

Thought Seymour First Settler

Daniel S. Mevis, Lansing pioneer, who came here with his father in 1847, at the age of 10 years, says in his "Pioneer Recollections," that "the first real settler was James Seymour, who built a dam and a saw mill where north Lansing now stands—east of Grand river. That was in 1845," Possibly

EARLY DEVELOPMENTS IN CENTRAL MICHIGAN 9

Mr. Mevis knew this from his father; other authorities do not entirely agree, however.

The land where this city now stands was located by entries in the United States land office, in the years 1835, 1836 and 1837, principally by Isaac Townsend, Frederick Bushnell, and James Seymour, says Cowles' history. "They were wild, very wild lands, heavily timbered, and infested by wolves, bears and wild cats and many other kinds of wild animals, and there was not a house or a building of any kind on any of it, or within miles of it."

Certain it is that in 1847, when Lansing township was chosen as the site for the new state capitol, the men induced by Seymour to move here, were almost the only white people here, and they, with their families, were clustered about the dam and mill in what is now the north end of the city. With the designation of the capital, came the rush for the confluence of the Grand and Red Cedar rivers.

THE CAPITOL COMES TO LANSING

THE LEGISLATIVE JOKER

MEMBERS of the house of representatives of Michigan's 12th legislature, in session in the classically designed state capitol in Detroit were only mildly interested, one bright morning in the winter of 1847, when one of their number arose to his feet and awaited recognition of the chair. Two small slips of paper were fluttered from his right hand; an eager page sped down the carpeted aisle, grasped them and returned to place them in the outstretched hand of the clerk of the house, who bent from his high desk to receive them.

This was a routine affair, certainly, but some interest was aroused by the fact that the legislator, with an air of expectancy, remained on his feet, rather than sitting down as soon as he had been acknowledged by the speaker of the house. There was something about his expression which interested those of his colleagues who were nearest to him; there was an air of expectancy which soon congealed into a feeling of belligerence as the reading clerk droned in his harsh voice: "Moves that the house return to the consideration of house bill No. 18." Men exchanged worried glances.

This was the bill which was to settle the permanent location of the state capital, one piece of legislation which had come close to wrecking friendships, political alliances, and campaign promises. The session of 1847 had been rent asunder by the clashing claims of towns and villages all

through the interior of the state. There had been a lull for a day or so, while conferences were striving to settle the matter amicably, off the floor. To bring up the matter at such a time was deemed presumption of high degree from any but a house leader.

"Mr. President," said the legislator, "we are having a great fall of snow this morning; sleighing should be excellent, and perhaps this bill will slide easily, too." He smiled a bit nervously.

Proposes Lansing

Dark glances were shot at the offender. The clerk started to read the second motion; stopped suddenly, adjusted his glasses again, looked sharply at the statue-still member who stood his ground, but now with a faint grin on his face. The clerk laughed lightly to himself, coughed, and his stentorian voice, with renewed life and expression, resounded: "Moves to amend by inserting the words, 'In the Township of Lansing!'"

Three score men guffawed, threw their heads back in relief, and laughed long and loud. It was just the kind of a joke which broke the tension engendered in a legislative struggle, days long. Those who had most fiercely pressed for the location of the capitol at Ann Arbor, Marshall, Jackson and a dozen other towns, and even those who fought for its retention in Detroit, joined in the laughter at the impudent sally and wit of the man who had introduced the joker.

"Great Heavens!" gasped one delighted member, out of breath in his merriment, "only a few days ago Copper Harbor was suggested, but this is even a better joke—Lansing township, my, oh, my!" And he buried his face in his flowing silk handkerchief, snorting his delight.

But two months later, Gov. William L. Greenley received a gold pointed pen from one of the many state officials and legislators who surrounded him in his office, and quietly affixed his name, above the state seal, to the act of the legislature which fixed the state capitol in "the township of Lansing in the county of Ingham." Michigan's biggest "joke" bill had passed its legislature after one of the most amazing battles of votes that ever had been staged since the days of Lewis Cass, first governor of the territory.

As the governor's pen was gliding over the parchment, wild wolves were howling through the timber of "the township of Lansing in the county of Ingham." The forest where the state capitol was to stand was almost virgin; few white

men had as yet laid eyes on it. True, brave efforts had been made to quell nature, and beat the heart of a timberland into a home for man, but in 1847, there were certainly less than 20 people in the township; they were the families of a few hardy pioneers clustered about the old Seymour dam where north Lansing stands today.

When Lansing township was suggested, jokingly enough, few legislators knew where it lay; not one of them had ever been there. The story of how and why the capitol stands today in the heart of modern Lansing, is one of the least known, but most interesting, in the history of this state.

No Such Town Then

Few people of today have ever questioned the moving of the capital from Detroit to Lansing; but even fewer realize that there was actually no such thing as the village of Lansing when the measure was passed and signed.

The state constitution of 1835, provided, in Section 9 of Article 12, that: "The seat of government for this state shall be at Detroit, or at such other place or places as may be prescribed by law, until the year 1847, when it shall be permanently located by the legislature."

With many small inland towns and villages growing up, in the southern rim of counties along the Michigan Central railroad, and with an increase of antipathy, in these sections, against the "Detroit influence," the constitution of 1835, regarding the location of the capital, had all the ingredients of a beautiful battle, in which no man would have any friends save his constituents.

By the time 1846 had rolled around, there was agitation about the question which was felt in every hamlet which thought it had the slightest hope of winning the great political plum—the state capitol. There being no Lansing at that time, or no settlement where Lansing proper stands now, there wasn't any feeling for this location—and no representatives to battle for the location which won in the end.

Detroiters were all for keeping the state capital there; others believed that a more healthy political atmosphere was needed by legislators. Every town interested had already made some overtures to the powers of the state, for favorable consideration; Marshall, Calhoun county, had reserved a square of land for use as the state capitol as early as 1840.

One of the first bills to be introduced into the 12th legislature was that providing for the change in location; Rep. George B. Throop, Wayne county, sponsored it January 6,

1847, two days after the legislature convened. The location was left blank on the bill; that was to be thrashed out later—the fight was on.

The legislative juggling and the oratory which was evoked over this bill would fill many, many newspaper columns in the telling, as it did, perhaps, back in those days. A special committee of the house wrestled with it for days, but was unable to compromise on any one town; the bill was reported out with the location still blank, to the floor of the house. By this time, the middle of February had come around, with the bill still blank as to location.

Saginaw Suggested

Saginaw was the first town to be filled in on the dotted line, but it was the first of many. It didn't even come to a vote in the house, but was replaced by Grand Blanc, which was lost, as were causes of Byron, Lyons, Detroit repeatedly, Marshall, Jackson, Ann Arbor and Battle Creek. Days passed and the bitterness of the struggle grew.

One of the arguments most frequently heard against allowing the location to remain at Detroit was that the salary of the governor (then \$1,500), was too small to allow any but a rich man to aspire to the office and live "in the gay city," while this stipend would be ample to support the poor but ambitious man in the simplicity of an interior village. Apparently no one thought the interior village would be anything but "simple," or that the governor would ever come back to Detroit, while in office.

Marshall nearly won, once; the vote was 29 to 32. Lyons, Ionia county, actually did win the house, by a vote of 30 to 28, and the insertion was approved but just before the bill came up for third reading, some legislative maneuver had been resorted to, and the name had been dropped from the measure.

Albion and Corunna were proposed in vain. Eaton Rapids had its thrill by being under consideration and dropped, dismally. Dexter was weighed in the balance. Every town on the Michigan Central railroad, which ran between Detroit and Chicago, was not only determined that the capitol should be there, but that it should be nowhere else. They all banded against Detroit, but split hopelessly against each other. But no one was jealous of Lansing township, where two or three log houses nestled beside a river.

Then Lansing township was proposed, and, in a light spirit, put immediately to a vote. It was passed, 35 to 27, and

sent to the amused senate, with cheers. But the situation shortly became serious, after the upper house vainly tried to stop the gap with Flint, Owosso, Charlotte, DeWitt, Onondaga and Pontiac, in slow succession. Gradually it dawned that, joke or no joke, Lansing township was the only suggestion which would command a majority in either house.

Viewed as a Joke

Frank E. Robson, Lansing, addressing the Michigan Historical society at an 1887 meeting, commenting on the action of the legislators, said: "Most of the members voted for the proposition, considering it simply in the light of a good joke to locate the capitol in the woods."

Arguments were without avail in the upper house, against Lansing. The place, even though "a howling wilderness" was on the verge of acceptance, and senators raved in despair at the seemingly inevitable result of this piece of joke legislation. One member is quoted with bellowing: "What, shall we take the capitol from a large and beautiful city and stick it down in the woods and mud on the banks of Grand river, amid choking miasma, where the howl of wolves and the hissing of the massasaugas, and groans of bullfrogs resound to the hammer of the woodpecker and the solitary note of the nightingale?"

Even such eloquence as this was without avail; the bill was passed, amid wild scenes in the senate, March 9, 1847, by a vote of 12 to 8. Governor Greenley signed it March 16, after every conceivable means had been tried to stop the measure. Legislators would have given their salaries to revoke their votes. Detroit had lost the state capitol.

As soon as the thing was decided, and the die cast, it is recorded that livery stables of Detroit were stripped bare, by frantic legislators and others interested, chartering rigs to dash to "Lansing," to see what was there, and what advantages might be reaped by being on hand early. The rush was on.

Governor Greenley, speaking in Lansing, January 1, 1879, at the dedication of the new and present state capitol, dwelt at length on the circumstances by which Lansing had become the state capital. "At last, influenced more by a desire to get rid of the whole subject and the daily jangling which attended it, than by any foresight or expectation of benefit . . . the legislature passed the bill," said the man who had signed it 32 years before.

"MICHIGAN" BECOMES "LANSING"

WITH the coming of the temporary capitol, finished in time for the legislators to convene in Lansing township, January 1, 1848, a straggling village had sprung up. It was called "Michigan," so named by the commissioners who had been sent ahead to determine the exact location of the capitol. When the 88 members of Michigan's 13th legislature arrived on the scene of the new capital for their 92-day session, they must have been chagrinned at the result of the joke legislation which had moved the law-making center from Detroit to "Michigan."

Frantic efforts to prepare for their coming had been made during the year previous, and a few hotels had been built. The Seymour house at the north end, the Lansing house at "middle town" and the Benton house at the south end of straggling Washington avenue, offered accommodations.

The wooden state capitol, in the square bounded by Washington and Capitol avenues, and by Allegan and Wash-tenaw streets, was the only evidence that the government of the state was to function here. The session of 1848 held in the temporary capitol was significant, so far as this city is concerned, for one other feature—"the town of Michigan" received a new name.

"Lansing" was acquired by this straggling, muddy streak of civilization, under the authority of act No. 237 of the public acts of 1848, approved April 3, of that year. The legislators joked at length on the matter of a name. This is evidenced by some of those proposed and voted upon.

Freak Names Suggested

"Pewanagowink," and "Swedenborg," were proposed and considered. Apparently the legislators hadn't been cured of their propensity to make fool suggestions, even after they had been jarred out of their facetiousness the year before by throwing the capitol into a deep forest as the result of a joke.

Other names which were voted upon in the house, seriously, however, included Houghton, Harrison, Brushridge, Kinderhook, El Dorado, Thorbush, Huron, and Marcellus. The senate was more lofty in its ideas, and advanced the names of famed men: Fulton, Tyler, Cass, Lafayette, Washington and Franklin being among those in the minds of upper house members.

The house passed the bill designating "Lansing"; the

senate wanted "Okeema," and for months, the houses wrangled. A conference committee finally evolved "Algoma," which suited no one. Agreement was finally secured, and the name of the township, which came from the name of the home of several early pioneers in New York state—Lansing—was made official.

The entire story of the moving of the capital to this collection of log cabins, ramshackle houses, and a crazy mud street, is one of chance, fate, and whims of unthinking men, all acting under unreasoning impulses which guided them into the final solution of the name of the city-to-be and the exact location of the state government buildings.

Saw "Rich Section"

North Lansing nearly got the buildings; south Lansing was nearly the center of it all. When the commissioners arrived here, they were importuned to consider the merits of section 9, north end of the township—now north Lansing.

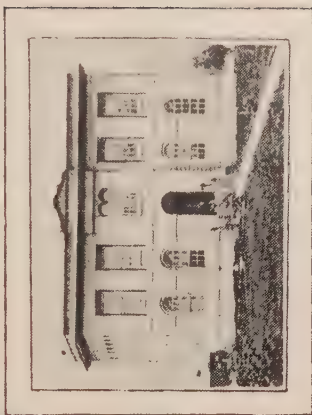
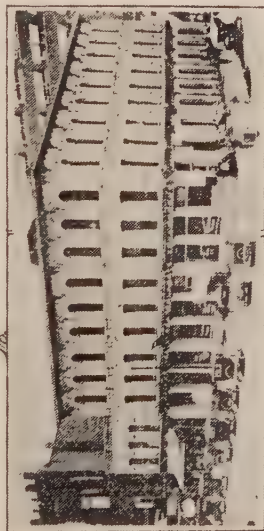
James Seymour, in advancing his claims for advantage in the north section of the township, prophesied: "It will soon become one of the richest and most populous parts of the state." He was right, for he was referring to the whole Grand river valley, even though pressing claims for his own section of it.

Of the so-called "Townsend proposition," to locate the capitol on section 21, now part of south Lansing, the report of one of the commissioners was: "One of the worst, from the standpoint of health, which could be adopted. You have dead water on each side of you, and agues and chill fevers would be as sure to the state officers and their assistants as would be their salaries."

The middle ground, section 16, was taken. "The township of Lansing" was a joke; the location of the buildings in that township was a compromise; the name "Lansing," another compromise. The future of Lansing was certainly being juggled in the hands of an uncertain providence, in the capricious years of 1847 and 1848.

MICHIGAN'S SIX STATE BUILDINGS

MICHIGAN has had three capitols and three state office buildings. The first capitol was one of ornate design, in Detroit, on the small square where Griswold and West Grand River avenue intersect in the heart of the downtown district. The structure, 60 by 90 feet, was five years in the



Upper left shows Michigan's first capitol, with the present one in the background, a historically valuable picture. Beside it is a more familiar view of the old capitol. Lower left shows the second state office building, torn down in 1923 to make room for the present United building. Beside it is the first office building, torn down in 1871 to make way for the present state capitol.



Construction of the state capitol is here shown, in rare photographs. The cornerstone, upper right, was laid October 2, 1873. Seated on the stone is Evan McPhee, expert stone cutter who died 40 years ago. His widow, Mary M., 411 South Chestnut street, is the 82-year-old wife of Alex McPhee, brother of Evan. The little girl in pigtails, in the same picture, is Orah Glaister, now Mrs. Archibald M. Emery

building, from 1823 to 1828. It cost \$24,500. The first legislative council of the territory of Michigan used the building first when this body convened May 5, 1828. The first 12 sessions of the state legislature, from November 2, 1835, until the adjournment of the 12th session, March 17, 1847, used the building, after which it was utilized for a time by the Detroit board of education as a school. The first state capitol erected in Lansing, called the temporary capitol, was on the square bounded by Washington and Capitol avenues, and Allegan and Washtenaw streets. It cost \$22,952.01, including an addition added later. It was a plain two-story white structure with a tin cupola, built in 1847. It had green wooden blinds, and was of pleasant and imposing appearance. It was first used by the legislature of 1848. In 1865, an addition of 16 feet was made to its south end. This was the only state building at the time, and it thus served as the state office building, executive office and for houses of the legislature.

Erected "Governor's Mansion"

It was while this building was being used as the capitol, that the so-called "governor's mansion," was erected on the northwest corner of the square, or on the southeast corner of West Allegan street and South Capitol avenue. This building was never occupied by any governor, but by auditors general, as a matter of fact, but the name survives the old residence which was an elaborate building. Lansing has never had a governor's mansion; the executives had one in Detroit, however, before the capitol was moved here. The "governor's mansion" was acquired by Edwin A. Bowd, Lansing architect, who maintained his home and office in it until 1923, when the house was moved to its present location, 2003 West Main street, where it stands today, still a residence of great distinction.

In 1853 a two-story brick office building was erected in the middle of the present capitol square, at a cost of \$15,500, with floor space of more than 7,000 square feet. In 1863, an addition was made to this building, almost doubling its capacity, to take care of increase in the demands on the old state office quarters in the temporary capitol.

The second state office building was erected in 1871, and the first one torn down, to make way for the permanent, or present, state capitol. The second building was on the northeast corner of the square where the temporary capitol was then standing, or—to state it in another way—on the southwest corner of South Washington avenue and West Allegan

street, where the United building stands today. The state offices, state library, and the state supreme court, were all in this "downtown" building until the new capitol was dedicated, January 1, 1879, when the library and supreme court were removed to the new capitol. The three-story building continued as the state office building.

City Offered Block for \$15,000

After 1879 when the new capitol was completed, the old one was vacant, and it remained so for some time. The city of Lansing was offered the building and whole square, for \$15,000 for a city hall, but the offer was refused; the common council wouldn't consider it. The building degenerated into a manufactory; its condition was such that no offices could be located there. A. A. Piatt made broom handles there; he was the sole occupant, according to John Crotty, former mayor and local historian, who says that Mr. Piatt occupied about half of the old building. Howard I. Piatt, manager of the heater division of the Motor Wheel corporation, is a son of A. A. Piatt.

The building burned December 16, 1882, and the town watched it, with sad feelings, despite the fact these sentiments hadn't been expressed by any effort to save the building while it was still in fair shape. The early days of Lansing are bound up in this old building, for representative hall had been used for theatrical entertainments and public gatherings; the senate chamber, smaller, for church services and Sunday school rooms.

In 1923, the second state office building, by then hardly suitable to the dignity of state department offices, was sold to the United Cigar company, for \$404,500. Its original cost was \$30,693.94, which represented a good profit for the state.

New Office Building Costly

The present state office building, facing South Walnut street, in the block from West Washtenaw and West Kalamazoo streets, was authorized May 10, 1917. The cornerstone was laid November 25, 1919, and the building was completed and occupied in 1922. The cost was \$2,857,500 which was double the cost of the present state capitol.

It is hardly fair to compare the costs of these two buildings; the state office building being erected just after the World war, when prices of everything, including labor, were high. The value of the dollar, from 1879, had shrunk by the

time the state office building was being built.

The present state capitol was contracted for July 15, 1872; the cornerstone was laid October 2, 1873, the building was completed and dedicated January 1, 1879, at a cost of \$1,510,130.50. Elijah E. Myers, Springfield, Ill., was the architect; Nehemiah Osborn and Company, Rochester, N. Y., were the general contractors.

Finest Stone Used

The building is in the center of a "square," with a frontage of 660 feet, north and south, and a depth of 742.5 feet, east and west, an area of $11\frac{1}{4}$ acres. The building's length is 345 feet, width, 191 feet, not including the steps and approaches. The extreme height is 267 feet. The building covers 11-6 acres and its perimeter is 1,520 feet.

The architecture is termed "Palladian" (from Andrea Palladio, Italian architect—Cowles history). The stone which went into its construction was brought from a number of different quarries, the best available material being used for every specialized requirement.

The building has been always kept abreast of every modern invention which would tend to the comfort and convenience of the state employes, and even today is regarded by many as one of the most beautiful state capitols in the Union.

JOURNALISM IN LANSING

AN EDITOR ARRIVES

THE driver of the stage coach on the Detroit, Howell and Lansing plank road cracked his long whip over the backs of his four horses, who broke into a quick trot at the pistol sharpness of the report from the lash. The last toll gate before reaching Lansing's lower town, had just been passed; the road bore northwest over a slight hill.

As he intently eyed the warped planks, turned up at the ends by the heat of the summer before, hardened further during the winter, his left hand searched behind him on the high, perilous seat, for the coach horn which was fished out triumphantly. The driver held it to his lips, drew his breath with a sharp intake, guiding the double span with the reins held tightly in his right hand.

A harsh, discordant blast from the long tin horn resounded across the peaceful countryside which was gratefully awakening, on that 24th day of April, 1855, from a long, severe winter. The driver, jolting in his seat, leaned back, looked into the vehicle with the curved belly which contained six passengers, all men, and shouted above the thunder of the wheels against the planks: "Mister Barns, we're almost to Lansing a'ready!" He hesitated, then boomed out in his bull-like bass voice: "I blowed extra loud so's they'd know you were coming!"

Inside the coach several men nodded approvingly toward the man addressed. Henry Barns, recently one of the editors of the Detroit Tribune, on his way to the state

capital to start publication of The State Republican, smiled at the ardent compliment of the driver, and shifted his glance out over the green forests which hemmed in the plank road which had been laid only two years before.

"Of course, gentlemen, as you know, this venture of mine with the newspaper that is to be, is no new situation for me," Barns was saying. "But I can't help expressing considerable concern," he added with an embarrassed smile, "over the fact that this is Tuesday, and I must have the first issue off the press by Saturday next!"

"Great Expectations"

A passenger with a large bushy beard, many years older than Barns, leaned over, tapped his knee slyly, and said in tones of warm admiration, "But my dear sir, your reputation has preceded you. I personally know a great and powerful man in Detroit who has said that you are one of the most original and accomplished of our northwestern journalists! Indeed, sir, we old line whigs expect great things from you, Barns." The traveler raised his voice, "The day may come, and mark you this well, gentlemen, when a black republican, or even an old line whig can live in Ingham county!" The old gentleman roared his childish glee and held his quaking paunch after the sally made for the benefit of the champion of republicanism shortly to be in their midst. The passengers had seemed to count themselves fortunate to have ridden with the new editor. Barns would have preferred not to have been made so much of by the bushy faced gentleman.

"My reputation may precede me, truly," rejoined Barns, "but for a fact, my equipment, on which my reputation must be supported in the future, is being left far behind." He leaned out of the coach window, screening his eyes against the sun and peered backward through light clouds of dust. "The team with my type and press, for some time directly in rear of us, has been left straggling a good hundred rods—I can scarcely make them out," the journalist said with some anxiety.

"Have no fear, Barns, there's only one way the man can drive, and he's sure to find you," was the assurance from another passenger as he settled himself for the last few moments of the long coach ride from Detroit.

"If you can leave Thompson that far behind, you'll be all right," came a rasping comment from another passenger who, riding the middle seat, was facing forward, as was Barns. He turned, to frown with some petulance. "I seem to be the

only democrat present, gentlemen, but I assure our new editor that there are three democrats in Lansing, to every black republican!" With that he turned sharply frontward and was silent.

Barns looked serious, and turned to say, "Now tell me about this man Thompson. He's to be my rival editor, and I understand that he is quite a capable man, and not to be taken lightly." He appealed to the large man with the great beard. The eyes above the beard smouldered at the back of the neck of the man who had just erupted, shrugged his shoulders and settled back.

"Well, of course, now that you've put it that way, I guess the fellow is fairly clever enough—though I can't say, sir," he whispered, "that I'd care to admit it publicly." Aloud, he continued: "Thompson, editor of the Michigan State Journal, is a man of 30, I should say. Jonathan Palmer is his full name—yes, Jonathan Palmer Thompson, that's it. He's a Harvard law graduate, he's been in Lansing about seven years, nearly as long as anyone, and he's been editor of the Journal since 1852. I'll have to admit, Barns, that he's the bright, particular star right now, but of course, this won't last long." There was a thump on the shoulders and a murmur about the hopes of the whigs and republicans of central Michigan, who didn't even have a newspaper to represent their views.

"You see, Barns, until the founding of the republican party, down in the village of Jackson, last July 4, Thompson had no opposition at all. Those democrats have run things with a high hand. We elected Bingham governor last fall, and got command of the state machinery, but—"

"—But the democrats elected Frank Pierce, and he's in the White House today, in command of national machinery!" was the sudden explosion from the democrat who had listened for a chance to say something.

"What I was going to say, Barns," the bearded man continued, ignoring the thrust, "was that the feelings of the whigs, or the republicans, as you young bucks call 'em, isn't so confident as it will be when we have a republican editor to sour the cream of this fellow Thompson." This analysis was an old story to Barns. He knew he was coming into the former stronghold of democracy, to support the administration of Kinsley S. Bingham, newly inaugurated governor of the state.

There was a sudden burst of speed as the horses were snapped up to a gallop. "We're almost to the Seymour house," explained one of the men. "The horses always reach there at

2:40 time, just for show, I guess." The body of the coach swayed drunkenly on the leather straps on which it hung, as the horses were curbed with a flourish and a blast of the horn, as if any horn were necessary to announce the arrival of the Detroit coach. Barns and several others were bound for the Benton house, in the upper town; they kept their seats in the coach. Baggage, carried in the wedge-shaped box in the rear, was taken off; packages and mail, carried down in the "boot," or deep dashboard, under the driver's feet, were passed out to eager hands. The coach moved away, jerkily, and rattled west along Franklin street.



The first Franklin avenue bridge as it looked when Henry Barns crossed it, to reach Lansing, 75 years ago

The horses were slowed down to a walk as the stage coach rumbled hollowly over the plank bridge over the Grand river, at Franklin street. Barns looked out curiously, anxious to see the village where he was to work. "The bridge," hastened someone to explain, "is one of our oldest bridges. It was built by James Seymour some eight years ago. It is an excellent bridge, for all that, but some day, we in Lansing propose to replace it with a covered structure." There was a touch of fierce pride in the tone of the speaker.

"Mr. Seymour, I understand, is one of your pioneer residents," suggested Barns respectfully, without withdrawing his head from the window, so great was his interest. "Ho! Ho! You said it, sir," was the hearty answer. "Just before we passed over the bridge, Barns, I might have pointed out to you the first house in Lansing, just a few rods to the left of

this plank road. James Seymour owned the property, sold it to John W. Burchard, in 1841, and Burchard built his log house two years later. The house was just west of the Seymour house, where we stopped but shortly ago."

"The state capitol will show up in an instant—there you see it," said a passenger tugging at Barns' coat tails. A small tinned dome glistening in the sun, was sighted, fully a mile south of Franklin street, as the coach turned into Washington avenue to head south toward the Benton house. The frame building, first capitol building in Lansing, was located on the block bounded by Washington avenue, Allegan street, Capitol avenue and Washtenaw street. A two-story frame structure, it was majestically simple, but already interest was partially diverted from it by the erection of a "magnificent" two-story brick structure, the new state office building, in 1853, in a square on Michigan avenue, one block west of Washington avenue.

"Gentlemen, you've shown me many interesting things, but the most important of all—to me, only, of course—I have yet to see," said Barns smiling, as the coach rattled south on Washington avenue toward upper town. The other passengers looked expectantly. "Your office?" asked one, with a show of respect. Barns nodded. The coach was just crossing Michigan avenue in the heart of middle town. The new state office building loomed up directly to the west, at a distance of about 20 rods. "See that large frame building on the north side of the street leading to the state building with the sign 'Job Printing and Bindery' across its top?" asked one man, who, without waiting for an answer, said, "That's it—right at the front door of the state office building. You certainly ought to get news that close to things!"

"The Contemporary"

"But look sharp, sir," interjected the lone democrat, "and you'll see where J. P. Thompson, editor of the Lansing Journal, holds forth!" The Columbus house, well known hotel, was being passed, on the east side of South Washington avenue, a short distance beyond Michigan avenue. "See that two-story frame structure just behind the Columbus house?" interrogated the loyal Journalite. Barns nodded: "So that's it, is it?" "Yep." "Well, we'll be close enough to see each other all day," the new editor smiled gaily.

When the Benton house, on the northwest corner of South Washington avenue and West Main street, was reached, Barns got out with the others, stretched his legs, and entered.



The original State Republican office and bindery, a two story frame building, on the present site of the Y. M. C. A., is seen here. The portly gentleman on the sidewalk is believed to be Rufus Hosmer, early editor of romantic girth and appetite



Hosmer and Kerr, publishers of the State Republican, added a story to the first building and otherwise improved it. It lasted until the early 1900's. This picture was taken when Darius D. Thorp was publisher, from 1888 to 1896

Half an hour later, another man, with a team, lumbered along with the physical equipment of the State Republican, and the paper was here—lock, stock and barrel, editor and all.

The State Journal of the present day was being born. Names have changed slightly in the interim; the paper is the same, in its continuity. Its early history was humble; as humble as any editor might be expected to be, coming into a new town with his type and press in a wagon, "a good hundred rods" behind him.

The old state capitol block is now covered with business blocks; R. E. Olds' home, erected 48 years later, stands on the site of the Benton house; the Y. M. C. A. stands where the "job printing and bindery" was; the Strand theater stands where the old Columbus house once flourished, and thus just in front of site of the old two-story frame structure where The Lansing Journal was born.

Nothing remains the same as it was on that April day, 75 years ago, when Henry Barns rode into the village of Lansing, worrying about a "deadline" four days later, when the first State Republican was to go out into the expectant hands of those "old line whigs, who expected great things."

Democrats must have read with tolerant amusement, and republicans must have smiled with grim encouragement, when the two-sheet newspaper, edited by one "H. Barns," came forth on Saturday, April 28, to oppose the distinguished Journal editor and leader of democratic sentiment, Jonathan Palmer Thompson. The battle was on.

THE "REPUBLICAN" AND THE "JOURNAL"

THE coming to Lansing of Henry Barns, first editor of The State Republican, was the beginning of the longest story of journalism in this city; the paper which he guided for a short time evolved through the succeeding decades into the present State Journal, which today celebrates its diamond jubilee anniversary. The State Republican was not the first newspaper in this city; its democratic opponent, The Lansing Journal, antedated it by six years, to be absorbed fairly recently by the Republican. The establishment of The Lansing Journal, in 1848, marks the earliest influx of any considerable population here; the establishment of The State Republican fixes approximately the beginning of activity of republicanism in this section; the date of the merging of the two papers, to

form the present State Journal, January 23, 1911, marks the predominance of republicanism to the extent that a purely democratic newspaper had ceased to be a paying proposition.

Before sketching the history of early newspapers in Lansing, however, it would be well to call attention to the absence of exactness which prevailed in the full name of the two most important papers here: The Journal and the Republican. Through the whims of successive editors on both papers, and the habits of the subscribers, the names show some slight variation, from time to time. The State Republican was known equally well as The Lansing Republican, and many references to this newspaper are by the latter designation. There is good reason for this, too. The official name of the paper was originally "The Lansing Republican." Later on when a new mast-head was adopted, using the state seal, the word "State" was in small type, in the full name, which was then "The Lansing State Republican," with the result that at that point, some called it one name, others a different one.

The "Lansing Journal" was known as "The State Journal" at times, and even as the "Michigan State Journal." The only thing that can be said in this connection is that "Republican" and "Journal" were the distinguishing names which persisted, no matter what other deviation there might have been, save for a short time when the "Journal" was changed to the "Lansing Democrat," following the Civil war. But inasmuch as there were earlier papers on the scene, the rising of the journalistic curtain must be timed previous to the arrival of Henry Barns, to get the whole picture.

First Paper

The first newspaper published in Lansing was the Free Press, first issued January 11, 1848, the year after the removal of the capital to this village. The publishers were Bagg and Harmon, of Detroit. Albert E. Cowles, in his history, "Past and Present, Ingham County," recalled that the paper was published in a two-story frame building back of the Columbus house, later the Hudson house, about where the Strand theater stands at present, at 215 South Washington avenue.

One of the several early newspapers which lived but a short time, however, was "The Primitive Expounder," which, rather than a secular paper, was a Universalist weekly, edited by the Rev. John H. Sanford, at where 327 South Washington avenue is now. It disappeared in 1852, but although it was a publication, it can never be considered to have been a news-

paper in the generally accepted sense of the word, being purely a religious periodical.

The democratic newspaper was, therefore, the chief actor on the journalistic scene, for years. Shortly after its inception, its name was changed to the "Michigan State Journal." The controlling firm became Peck and Harmon, when John Harmon and George W. Peck were in charge. The name of Peck was shortly to resound loudly through this section of the state, for Peck was to go to congress from this, then the fourth, district, later to be displaced by a later editor of the State Republican.

* * *

Continuation of the interesting history of the Lansing Journal brings up the name of Jonathan Palmer Thompson, who assumed the editorial chair in 1852. It was under the management of Peck and Harmon that Thompson came to Lansing. His fame lives today in pioneer records of this section of the state, and in the minds of the oldest survivors of this period in the history of the city. This man, coming to the village of Lansing in August, 1848, the year after the removal of the capital from Detroit, was a Harvard graduate, and a fairly wealthy man, and by the time he had taken over the editorship of the only paper, he was a figure of considerable proportions. Thompson was an intimate friend of Judge William H. Chapman, who had preceded him to Lansing by only a few months.

The opening of the scene, so far as this newspaper is concerned, however, shows democracy represented in 1855 by the Lansing Journal, with Peck and Harmon in charge, and J. P. Palmer as editor, and with republicanism defended and championed by the modest "H. Barns," with no perceptible backing of any kind—financial or moral.

Barns didn't find much money in the publication, however, and he went back to Detroit, after issuing but two numbers of the weekly. The Journal was also a weekly, of course.

The first two numbers of the Republican were issued on Saturdays, but when Hosmer and Fitch—Rufus Hosmer and George A. Fitch—took over the paper, and secured the state printing contract, the publication day was changed to Tuesday, which was maintained for many years by the weekly.

In the issue for May 29, the fifth issue, Herman E. Hascall's name began appearing as the proprietor. Hosmer and Fitch continued to get the paper out, however, and Rufus Hosmer was still the editor.

The State Republican was being printed in the two-story

frame building on the site of the present Y. M. C. A. building, north side of West Michigan avenue, one lot east of North Capitol avenue. Shortly after the paper passed to Hascall, the location was changed, and we read, in the issue for June 19, 1855:

"WE—The loss of time occasioned by the removal of the Republican to our new quarters, will, we trust, be sufficient excuse for very obvious shortcomings; our friends will find us in the building formerly occupied by the Journal office, immediately north of the Columbus house."

The shortcomings referred to were glaringly obvious in that particular edition: Almost the entire front page was taken up with a lengthy installment of a serial, "Dick Moon, the Pedlar."

Early Locations

More important, however, is the tracing of the successive locations of the State Republican. As will be inferred from the quotation foregoing, the Journal had by then moved from its two-story building "behind," or east of the Columbus house, and had moved out to face on South Washington avenue. This latter location was then taken by the Republican, according to the issue of June 19. The Journal moved to a new location slightly south of this, or below the Columbus house, and that is shown from the account of a fire which gutted the Journal office, in 1857, and threatened the Republican office.

It was on June 19, when the Republican moved its home, that DeWitt Clinton Leach entered the editorial offices of the paper, and things began to "look up" decidedly, for Leach took his politics seriously, whereas some of his predecessors were possibly more concerned with the state printing contract. Rufus Hosmer remained as co-editor with Leach, however.

* * *

With the coming of Leach to the Republican, came a decoration for the front page of the paper, and his political practicality was shown at once. The issue for July 31 showed the state seal incorporated into the masthead on Page 1. George W. Peck sold the Lansing Journal to Stephen P. Mead, in June, 1855, and in the Republican for June 26, we see the unmistakable courtliness of Leach in this paragraph:

"The Journal is now published by S. P. Mead, so long and favorably known as the foreman of the state printing office. Under his management, and with Mr. Thompson at

the head of the editorial bureau, the paper cannot help but be excellent and eminently readable."

Rufus Hosmer continued as co-editor until December 4, 1855, when he returned to Detroit to edit the Detroit Advertiser, his position before coming to Lansing. Leach was then sole editor. Thus, with Hosmer back in Detroit, on the Advertiser, he was once more a colleague of Henry Barns, then editor for the second time of the Tribune. Hosmer was to return to Lansing; not so Barns.

Mr. Hosmer, well known then, was to be better known in Lansing in the immediate future. Hosmer street is named for the man today. The most famed connection Hosmer had

with The State Republican was when he and John A. Kerr were members of the old "Hosmer and Kerr," under which The State Republican prospered as it had never before. It was during this time in 1858 that the old original building, on West Michigan avenue, was improved, with a story added, to make the then "New Hosmer and Kerr" building, which was something of local pride in its day. Even though Hosmer went to Detroit, he still remained one of the firm publishing The State Republican here, for the name "Hosmer and Fitch" was carried at the top of Page 1, until August 11, 1857, when John A. Kerr appeared on the scene.

Thus Hosmer's influence was

still felt here, even after he left in 1856. In the meantime, however, Leach left The State Republican on August 26, 1856, when he started to campaign for the republican state ticket, of which he was a member. Following his nomination, no mention of his candidacy was made in The State Republican, however, and this was undoubtedly by his earnest request to Herman E. Hascall, publisher, and acting editor. Leach returned to his desk on November 11, after the election in which Michigan went republican and Ingham county went for that party as well, for the first time in his history.



JOHN A. KERR



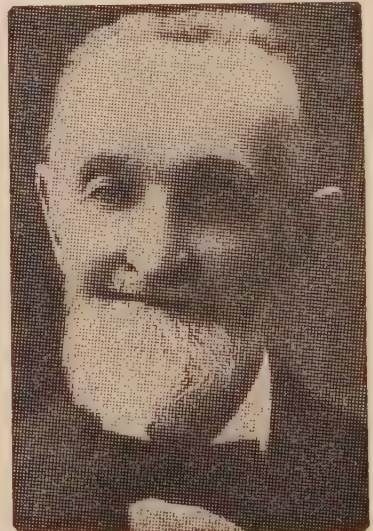
It was shortly after this, on December 9, 1856, that S. P. Mead of the Journal, took Joseph M. Griswold, of Jackson, as his business partner, who bought half interest. "Mead and Griswold" were almost as well known as "Hosmer and Kerr," their rivals. J. C. Fox, of the Journal, is believed to have retired from the management of this paper, at that time. In its paragraph about the change in management in the rival paper, The State Republican referred to "The Michigan State Journal," indicating the extreme flexibility of the designation, in the earlier days.

Herman E. Hascall and George A. Fitch left The State Republican after the issue of August 4, 1857, had been published, and it was at this time that Rufus Hosmer returned from Detroit to join John A. Kerr, to make the firm "Hosmer and Kerr." The two men who left the paper, Fitch, one of the publishers, and Hascall, the manager, left it without local news for some weeks, but this situation righted itself shortly, after Hosmer and Kerr became accustomed to the local situation.

Just previous to the coming of Hosmer and Kerr, DeWitt Clinton Leach had formally left the editorial chair, though his name had not appeared on the editorial page masthead since he originally left to campaign in 1856. His "valedictory," however, indicated that he had "overseen" the columns of the paper since he had returned November 11, 1856.

* * *

Succeeding DeWitt Clinton Leach in the editorial chair of The State Republican was Courtland B. Stebbins, and the issue for October 27, 1857, contained his opening editorial. Even while Mr. Stebbins was editor, Hosmer seems to have left Lansing again, for when the new editor concluded his brief contact with the newspaper, it was stated on the editorial page that "Rufus" Hosmer, one of the state printers and publisher of the Lansing State Republican, had returned to



COURTLAND BLISS STEBBINS

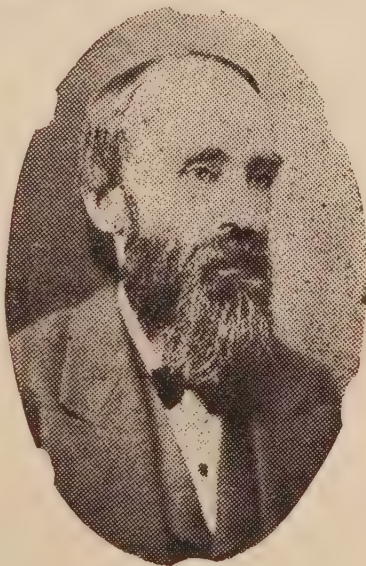
Lansing, and that he would thereafter occupy the editorial chair. Mr. Stebbins wrote a fitting editorial noting his leaving, and after this appeared, in the issue of June 22, 1858, he left to take a position in the office of the superintendent of public instruction. The firm became John A. Kerr and Company on April 20, 1861, when Rufus Hosmer died. George Jerome, of Detroit, succeeded him, but remained inactive, merely investing in the publication business, remaining a silent partner of Mr. Kerr's. But John A. Kerr died on August 1, 1868, and was in turn, succeeded by Bingham George and Company, later by W. S. George and Company.

It was during the regime of John Kerr that Orien A. Jenison joined the forces of The State Republican. He remained with the organization until August 6, 1895, when he died. He was the father of O. A. Jenison, now president of the Dyer-Jenison - Barry company, 123 South Grand avenue, the site of the original Jenison home.

Many Editors

Editors, as well as proprietors, were being changed, in the early days, and Isaac M. Cravath, who became editor May 1, 1861, left the chair the following October, to command the Twelfth Michigan Infantry Volunteers, as a captain in the Union army. Stephen D. Bingham, of Bingham, George and Company, was called to the editorial chair after Captain Cravath had left for the front, but early in 1862, he relinquished this position to George I. Parsons. About a year later, Theodore Foster took up the pen, and remained as editor until his death, December 27, 1865. Mr. Bingham was again called on, and he remained as editor until he died, September 1, 1873. During this time, he was a partner in the business for a year, from May 1, 1868.

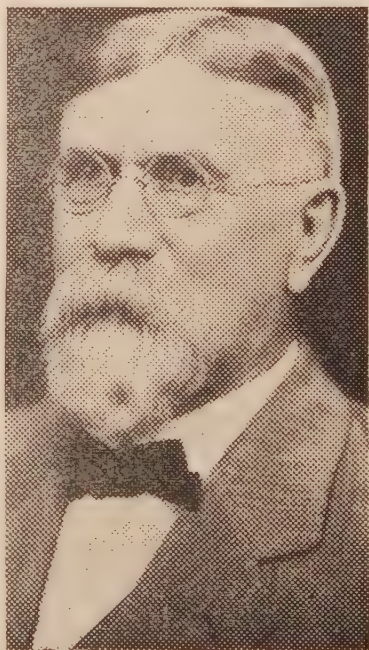
It was during the incumbency of Stephen D. Bingham that Lansing saw its first daily newspaper on June 30, 1872, but not for long was the venture tried.



W. S. GEORGE

The title which Mr. Bingham enjoyed at this time was that of "Political Editor," which is certainly the equivalent of being sole editor, so far as any expression of editorial comment and opinion goes. James W. King was city editor at that time, and he was probably the first person to hold that job, for heretofore one editor was deemed ample for *The State Republican*.

Nelson B. Jones was on the staff of the paper at about this time, and with W. S. George himself acting as news editor as well as publisher, *The State Republican* again took new life and its columns began to reflect a more timely spirit in its news columns. Facilities for receiving news, by telegraph, were increasingly available, by then, of course. Mr. King was in line for promotion, so when Mr. Bingham died in 1873, the city editor was elevated to the editorial rostrum, where he directed the editorial expressions of the *Lansing Republican* until January 1, 1886, when Darius D. Thorp and Frank Godfrey became owners of the newspaper. But it was during Mr. King's time in the editorial chair that a semi-weekly was started—January 5, 1875. This edition was maintained, for King had better success than his predecessor who had tried a daily before the town had been educated to the point of taking its news so often. Five years later, King geared the paper up a little higher and printed three editions weekly, and it was a tri-weekly which Thorp and Godfrey bought.



FRED S. LAWRENCE

Daily Edition

Their first official act was to start a daily edition, and *The State Republican* and its successor, *The State Journal*, have never missed a daily issue on any week day, from January 1, 1886, to the present time. The weekly edition was

kept up by Thorp and Godfrey, however, and it was continued until about 1906, when it was definitely abandoned.

The new owners lopped off the word "Lansing" from the title of the paper to make the name, officially, "The State Republican."

Regardless of this, however, the old title persisted, and even today, references to The Lansing Republican are common.

Frank Godfrey acted as managing editor for two years, and retired from the business, leaving Mr. Thorp in full control. Fred S. Lawrence, president of the Lawrence and Van Buren Printing company, general manager representing Darius D. Thorp, in the 1890's, recalls that E. V. Chilson was city editor; that Dewey Bingham, now dead, and Will Bartholomew, now living in Lansing, were reporters during this period. Chilson and Bartholomew were to be editors of the paper, in time. William M. Hermes, now president of the printing company of that name, in Lansing, was bookkeeper and accountant, in those days. Mr. Lawrence is today Lansing's veteran newspaper man and printer, he having entered the offices of The State Republican in 1872, as type setter, later becoming superintendent of the composing room. With the retirement of Frank Godfrey, William M. Clark became managing editor of The State Republican, in which position he remained until the property passed into the hands of the Robert Smith Printing company, July 1, 1896.

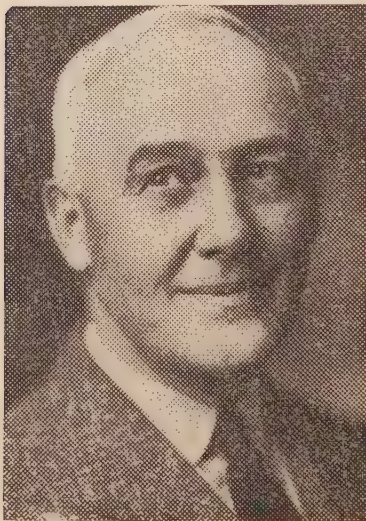
* * *

Evidence that newspaper publishing had not as yet gained its present place in the business world is offered through the fact that The State Republican passed into the hands of a printing company in 1896. It was to be followed, four years later by its rival, the Lansing Journal, but more of that later. H. S. Hilton became editor of the Republican when the Robert Smith company gained control, and, for the third time in its long history, the location of the paper was changed. It left the once fine looking "Hosmer and Kerr" building, for the printing company location, 230 North Washington avenue, on the southeast corner of Ionia street.

The next editor was Will I. Bartholomew, from September 1, 1901, to May 13, 1902, when Roy G. Jones succeeded him as editor. Mr. Jones died in 1910, and the editorial chair was occupied by E. V. Chilson.

In 1910, the publication of two editions daily was commenced; three were published daily, from 1912, and at present five daily editions are published regularly.

The State Republican and the Lansing Journal were issued for the last times on Saturday, January 21, 1911. On the following Monday, January 23, they were merged, and published under the name "The Lansing Journal-Republican." Three weeks later, however, on Monday, February 13, this compromise name was dropped after a transition had been effected in the minds of the subscribers, and the new name, "The State Journal," was adopted for the first time. There has been no change since then. For many months, the line: Successor to the State Republican and the Lansing Journal," was carried at the top of page 1, directly under the new name, "The State Journal." W. S. Chaddock followed E. V. Chilson in the editorial chair, and thus became editor of The State Journal, after the merger.

*CHARLES N. HALSTED**ARD E. RICHARDSON*

In 1914, the Robert Smith Printing company sold The State Journal to Charles N. Halsted and Ard E. Richardson.

In January, 1915, The State Journal moved into a home of its own, its fourth and present location, northeast corner of North Grand avenue and East Ottawa street, a building with an intricate history of its own. It was previously the office building of the Bement Stove Works, now defunct.

Douglas D. Martin, editor under the early management

of Mr. Halsted and Mr. Richardson, was succeeded by Frederick A. VanFleet, who acted as managing editor. Kenneth C. Park, for some years city editor, is now managing editor. No immediate successor to Mr. VanFleet had been appointed in the interim.

The present editor and publisher of The State Journal is Paul A. Martin, who took charge of the paper December 1, 1928, when Mr. Halsted and Mr. Richardson sold out their interests. Acting under the former as well as the present management, as editorial writer, is Glenn K. Stimson, former feature writer for the newspaper.

Another Lansing newspaper is the Capital News, established May 26, 1921. Its plant is at 122 West Washtenaw street. Bernarr MacFadden is its publisher.

* * *

Going back to the Lansing Journal and its place in the newspaper publishing history of this city, it is found that less detailed information has survived. The complete files of the paper have not been preserved. The earliest book in the bound files of the state library is for 1873. It is, however, known that following its impetus received from the editorship of J. P. Thompson, who was its editor when The State Republican was first issued, it thrived for 40 years as a weekly under a long succession of editors, many of whom are remembered by their admirers, even if records aren't continuous in this regard.

Thompson left Lansing to take the editorship of the Grand Rapids Herald and Inquirer, in 1856, where he remained until 1877, when he went to the Detroit Post and Tribune. No definite date for his death can be given, nor can this be supplied in the case of his distinguished republican rival, Leach at the Republican, who after his congressional service, went north as the proprietor of the Grand Traverse Herald in 1867, which he held until 1883.

Shortly before Thompson left the Journal for Grand Rapids, Stephen P. Mead, who had bought the Lansing Journal from George W. Peck, had sold half interest to Joseph W. Griswold, of Jackson, as previously noted. Griswold took Thompson's place as editor in 1856. He edited the paper until the early part of 1862.

The Journal's Hiatus

Until 1864, Samuel L. Kilbourne edited the paper, according to the personal recollections of Albert E. Cowles, historian. Certain it is that the Journal suspended publication for a short time at least in the early part of 1863, for the

State Republican called attention, editorially, on May 20, 1863, to the resumption of publication of the Journal, under "Peck and Chapman." Just when George W. Peck bought back into the business, and how the firm of Peck and (William H.) Chapman displaced Mead and Griswold is not definitely known. However, these men controlled the democratic paper until June 6, 1866.

The editorial policy of the paper had not swerved from its course noted in its early days, for The State Republican said of it: "We have no doubt the paper will be conducted with ability and we have as little doubt that it will be anything rather than a supporter of the government in its efforts to suppress the slave-holders' rebellion." Despite the policy of opposition toward the Union government, as indicated by the Republican, the Journal thrived. Perhaps it wasn't nearly so rabid as insinuated. Recall, however, that democrats preponderated here, until well after the Civil war.

John W. Higgs became editor and publisher of the paper on June 6, 1866, and the name of the publication was changed to "The Lansing State Democrat," which it remained for six years, after which, on July 12, 1872, William H. Haze and Col. George P. Sanford gained possession.

The association of Haze, a republican, and Sanford, a democrat, is significant. Horace Greeley, out of sympathy with the majority of the republican leaders, was nominated for the presidency, in 1872, by the liberal republicans, and accepted as well, by the regular democratic party. This fusion of political strength brought about corresponding alliances in the country; thus Haze and Sanford were in accord in editing a paper which "Greeley-ized."

Sanford was a colonel who had come by his title honestly, in war service, and a more picturesque figure never strode the streets of Lansing. With his goatee and immaculate shirt



COL. GEORGE P. SANFORD

front of starched linen, Colonel Sanford was a tall, commanding personality, with leonic features.

Colonel Sanford gained sole control of the paper from January 1, 1873, to 1881, when he sold the property to Louis E. Rowley, but remained as editor until February 22, 1883. In the meantime, the name had been changed back to "The Lansing Journal." Mr. Rowley began publication of a daily edition, with the weekly edition continued for some time.

In January, 1893, the Journal was incorporated, and known as The Lansing Journal company, with Mr. Rowley in control until 1900, when Ira H. Clark assumed control and continued publication until the paper passed to the hands of the Robert Smith Printing company, which had, by then, of course, bought The State Republican, as well. Thus the printing company controlled both papers and published them independently until January 23, 1911, when they were combined to form The State Journal, as indicated in a foregoing section of this compilation.

Three years later, The State Journal was sold to Mr. Halsted and Mr. Richardson. This management was continued until 1928, when the present editor and publisher took control of the newspaper which is published by The State Journal company. This company is a unit of Federated Publications, Inc., the directors of which are: A. L. Miller, Battle Creek, president; R. J. Boyle, William Alden Smith and Arthur H. Vandenberg, all of Grand Rapids; Carlton M. Higbee, of Detroit; H. L. Nichols, of Chicago; Paul A. Martin, of Lansing.

OTHER OLD TIME LANSING PAPERS

WHILE The State Journal, and its immediate predecessor, The State Republican, have enjoyed a record of continuity of life in the local newspaper world, a number of other newspapers, long since disappeared, have served subscribers in this section. Several of them were published in north Lansing. Perhaps the best recalled newspaper of times past is the old Lansing Evening Press, which was started in 1911, to be bought out by Ard E. Richardson, business partner of Charles N. Halsted in the ownership of The State Journal, from 1914 to 1928.

This newspaper was published in a building on the north side of East Ottawa street, near North Grand avenue, or a short distance west of the present location of The State Journal. Years before, the Lansing Journal, the democratic paper,

had been published in the same block, in the building just behind the Dodge block, or at about 109 East Ottawa street. The price of the Evening Press was one cent a copy.

W. S. and William Thompson were the publishers of this daily which, in its third year, was issuing an eight-page paper. The paper was bought shortly after The State Journal was acquired by the two publishers, from the Robert Smith Printing company, with the result that the local field was cleared of all opposition for the paper which now dominates the central Michigan field with a circulation of better than 44,000 daily.

"The Lansing Herald," a monthly, with a touch of editorial and news dignity in its makeup, was started in September, 1870, to sell for 25 cents a year. E. S. Thompson and company were the publishers of this modestly priced paper. The office was on Franklin street, north Lansing, which was as definite a designation as furnished by the editorial masthead of the paper. The company sold steel engravings and carried a full line of school books. The circulation claimed was 1,000 but in those days editors were generous with their figures. This was a four-page sheet, looking not unlike the very early issues of the old State Republican, which by then, was an almost strident publication.

"The Echo," a north Lansing paper, was brought to the attention of The State Journal by Miss Isabella E. Hamilton, 1303 Center street, when she submitted a worn copy of one of the old issues. The first copy was issued September 19, 1868, by a firm of Cornell and Longyear, whose offices were above the store of George W. Christopher & Brothers. It was neutral politically, and seemed to have been founded chiefly as a vehicle for north side advertising, which was certainly enterprising in those early days.

Another north Lansing paper, evidently the contemporary of the "Echo," was "The Lansing Enterprise," published by Willis F. Cornell. The only indication of its first publication date was that a copy in the possession of Miss Hamilton was Volume 2, No. 3, dated November 23, 1869, which would mean that it had been first started in the fall of 1867, thus antedating "The Echo." Certain it seems, that both papers were struggling along together for at least a year, in face of the fact that the town was being worked to the limit to support the two main newspapers, The Lansing Journal and The State Republican. The editorial torch was apparently never in any grave danger of being extinguished in Michigan's capital.

CHIEF OKEMOS

"ME BIG CHIEF; FIGHT PLENTY ONCE!"

THE MAN in charge of the baggage car stood on a box, stretched up, and lighted the old lantern which swayed from its hook in a beam overhead. The sun had set, only shortly before, leaving the chuffing Detroit and Milwaukee train to rumble on, through early Michigan dusk, in the fall of 1858.

As the cheery, pale light of the lantern warmed the scene inside the jolting car partly filled with heavy boxes, dunnage and packages, the conductor of the train stepped into the small circle of privileged passengers who were riding there, bade them all a "Good evening, gentlemen," and proceeded to collect their passes. Only those who had acquired standing in a community were able to secure passes, and they were allowed to ride wherever they pleased.

"Nice trip, Mister Hosmer?" said the man with the brass buttons to the first one who proffered his pass. Rufus Hosmer, editor of The State Republican, best known republican newspaper in central Michigan, smiled, as did Albert E. Cowles, later to be author of a famous history of Ingham county. Both had passes.

The central man in the group seated under the light was a weazened, bent and shriveled little Indian. He was easily a centenarian. Wrapped in a blanket, he was noticeable for his stern, severe, high cheekboned face, almost black, as he sat, silently offering his pass which the conductor took decently enough.

"Are you an editor, too," inquired the conductor, smilingly.

The old Indian didn't understand the question. He looked up quizzically, surveyed the bystanders. They smiled and nudged each other. Up stood the Indian, his blanket wrapped about him with a fierce gesture. He was almost ridiculously small, standing not more than a shade over five feet. But his eyes glowed with resentment as he faced the somewhat embarrassed conductor. The beleaguered Indian knew only that he was being made the butt of a joke, and no man living could ever be allowed to poke fun at Chief John Okemos, the greatest fighter of any color who ever lived in the territory of Michigan.

"Me big chief—fight plenty once!" the old man said in bitterly spoken words, deeply and sternly intoned.

The scene was passed off shortly, the conductor smoothed the ruffled feathers of the "big chief" whose fighting days were over before the conductor had been born.

And the sun, which was setting then, was symbolical of the fast nearing end of Chief Okemos, leader of the Ottawas, once the terror of every American who heard his name on the warpath or battlefield.

The last 20 or so years of his incredibly long life were spent in Lansing and the surrounding territory; a peaceful era which had started before the first white men had arrived here. The earliest of Lansing pioneers knew his measure as a man.

A Man's Man

Quick in his resentment, insistent on being accorded respect, fiercely determined to enforce his strong personality and influence on anyone who attempted familiarity, something he would not brook, Chief Okemos was pugnacious to the end of his life.

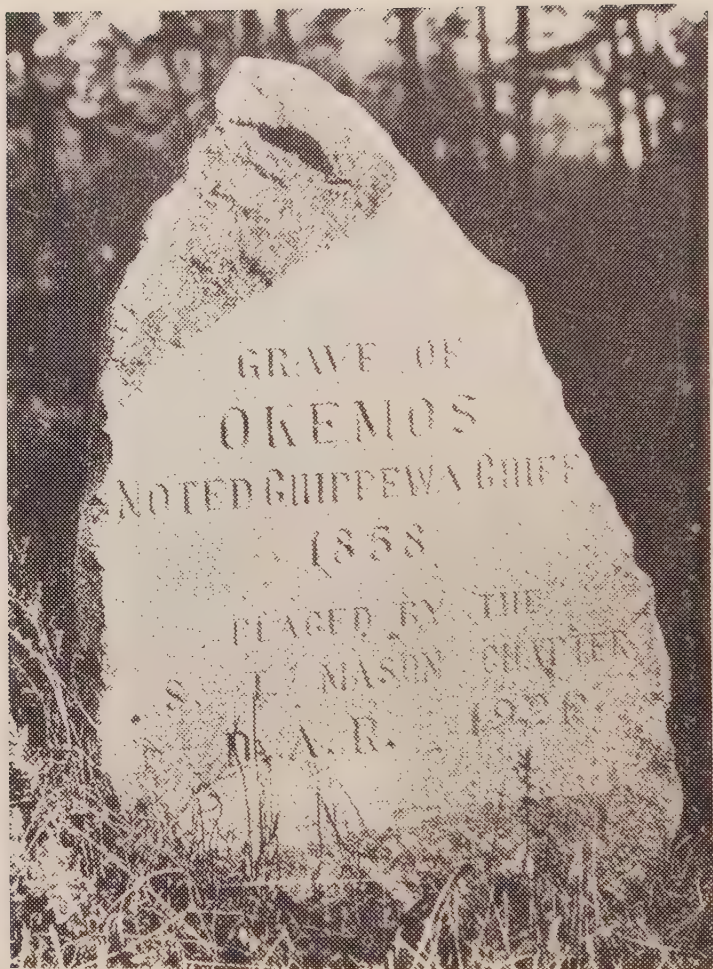
The challenge which the weakened old red man flung into the teeth of the affable conductor, which ended the amused glances in his direction, makes the best possible epitaph for this man, celebrated in the history of central Michigan: "Me big chief—fight plenty once!" No editor could possibly tell the life story of Okemos in so few words.

John Okemos proved his tremendous courage, and his terribly great stamina, and won his recognition as a chief, in a fight in which he survived three wounds, any one of which would kill an ordinary man. A rifle shot in the side, at close range, a terrific saber cut in the head, and another stroke with a broad-bladed sword which laid his back open, from his hips



CHIEF JOHN OKEMOS

The only picture ever taken of the old chief is here reproduced. He was photographed in 1857 by O. A. Jenison, Lansing pioneer



Standing in an alfalfa field on the banks of Grand river, some six miles south of Portland, is the tombstone of Chief Okemos. It was erected, as indicated, by the Stevens Thompson Mason chapter of the D. A. R., in 1921. Another rock, not 209 yards distant, marks the site of the old Indian village of Shim-ni-con. Between this location and the site of the present-day village of Okemos, six miles east of Lansing, the old chief and his tribe used to divide their time

to his shoulder, cutting one shoulder blade cleanly in two pieces, failed to kill Okemos, who, left for dead, recovered to fight again, nine months later.

Okemos, tiger-like fighter, and some lesser leaders, with a band of Indian braves, had attacked a British cavalry detachment in the battle of Sandusky, early in 1813, when the leader sustained his wounds. He, his brother and one warrior, were the only Indians to survive. Though the British horsemen had apparently completed their job by passing a saber through the chest of every wounded Indian, these three were not so stabbed, for they were believed dead. There certainly could seem to be no doubt concerning Okemos, who received deadly blows from two men on horseback, attacking from the rear.

The story of how these three Indians came back to Grand river, near the site of the village of Okemos, is one of great pathos, telling as it does, that the extermination of the red man was seemingly a foreordained fact of history, regardless of their fighting qualities. The fight was only one of the many in the life of the chief.

John Okemos was born in the camp of his father, which was located at or near a point which was later marked by a railway station, Knagg's Crossing, now long disappeared. The Grand Trunk railway line which runs between Lansing and Flint, crosses the Shiawassee river at this point.

As to when Okemos was born, the estimates run all the way from 1739 to 1775, a gap of 36 years, making for disparity in the computations of his age at death.

Okemos, chief of the Ottawas, powerful ally of the famed Tecumseh, and a cousin of the battle-scarred Pontiac, was, by comparisons with these Indians, almost a sub-chief. Perhaps he is remembered largely because he was a familiar figure in the very earliest days of Lansing; perhaps because of his being leader and chief of the Indians of this section of the country. But his position in the history of central Michigan, because of his fighting ability and almost insane insensibility to the emotion of fear, and because of his judgment and wisdom in battle, would undoubtedly be greater today, if more of his exploits were definitely known.

Fighting Days

The battles in which Chief John Okemos took part cover a period of 22 years. This is the compressed military history of the old Indian chief, showing the battles in which he and his Ottawa warriors engaged:

1791, Nov. 4—Okemos lead his braves to defeat Gen.

Arthur St. Clair on the Miami river, northern Ohio, near the shores of Lake Erie. President George Washington was greatly troubled by the news of these reverses.

1794, Aug. 20—Okemos and his tribesmen were defeated and routed by Maj. Gen. "Mad" Anthony Wayne, commander of the American armies in the northwest, at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, or Battle of Maumee River, northern Ohio.

Later, about 1800—Okemos and his Ottawas, in fusion with Pottawatomies, defeated the Shawnee Indians, near the site of Three Rivers, Mich.

Slightly later—Okemos and his tribe aided in the repulse of Chippewas who sought to invade Michigan from Wisconsin and the northwest.

1811, Nov. 7—Battle of Tippecanoe, Tippecanoe county, Ind. Okemos was not the Indian leader; a brother of the famed Tecumseh, called "The Prophet," led the red men to a defeat at the hands of Maj. Gen. William Henry Harrison, on the Wabash river, north of the site of Lafayette. Okemos and his band escaped. He joined the British forces, to fight in the war of 1812, with a colonel's commission.

1813, January—Battle of Sandusky, fought on Seneca Plains, in northeast Ohio. This was the high point in the life of Okemos, leader of Indian forces slaughtered by a cavalry detachment. The chief, one of three survivors, received terrible wounds which had not left him when he died, 45 years later.

1813, later—Siege of Fort Meigs, northern Ohio. All biographers do not mention this engagement; two do, including Rufus Hosmer who had placed "three of our fingers" in a hole in the chief's skull, sustained at Fort Meigs.

1813, Oct. 5—Battle of the Thames; Maj. Gen. W. H. Harrison, American, defeated General Proctor and his Indian allies, on the Thames river, 30 miles north of Chatham, Ont., Canada; Tecumseh, great Indian chief, killed; Okemos wounded. This was his last battle.

The decline of the Indian, in numbers and importance, was being heralded after the war of 1812; Okemos wounded for the third time at the Thames, retired as a war chief, made peace with the Americans he had fought so bitterly, and the way was paved for his actual retirement and eventual decline from even titular chieftainship, to bask in the light of reflected glory once his, for the almost half century of his life which descended to the plane of harmless old age.

In the spring of 1814, Okemos presented himself at Fort Wayne, Detroit, sought out Colonel Godfrey, and said, sim-

ply, "Now I make peace and fight no more. Chemokemon too much for Indians. Me fight plenty enough." Through Okemos, and Gen. Lewis Cass, governor of the Michigan territory, a peace pact, never broken, was effected between the Ottawas and the United States.

Thus ended the fighting career of the man someday to grow old and feeble, yet remain pugnacious enough to draw his blanket under his chin, rise at a fancied slight, and flash fire as a struck flint, even as the slanting rays of his life's sun were nearly dimmed . . . "Me big chief—fight plenty once."

LATTER DAYS AND BURIAL OF OKEMOS

THE full moon of an October evening rose through seams of cloud strands, veiled across its face by the brisk wind which whipped yellow and red leaves scuttling across the earth below. A bright oil lamp shone from the windows of a one-story frame house built near the point where the Grand river turns from its north course, and streams to the west.

The light, and the security it represented, was symbolical of the pioneers who lived in it; of the manner in which they had challenged and defied the rigors of a winter in the wilds of Michigan. But the challenge was nearly gone from the scene when this particular autumn had arrived; for a village had grown from the impetus of first settlers; the frame house, oldest in Lansing, was by now but one of hundreds. For Lansing was by then the state capital; history had reached the middle 1850's.

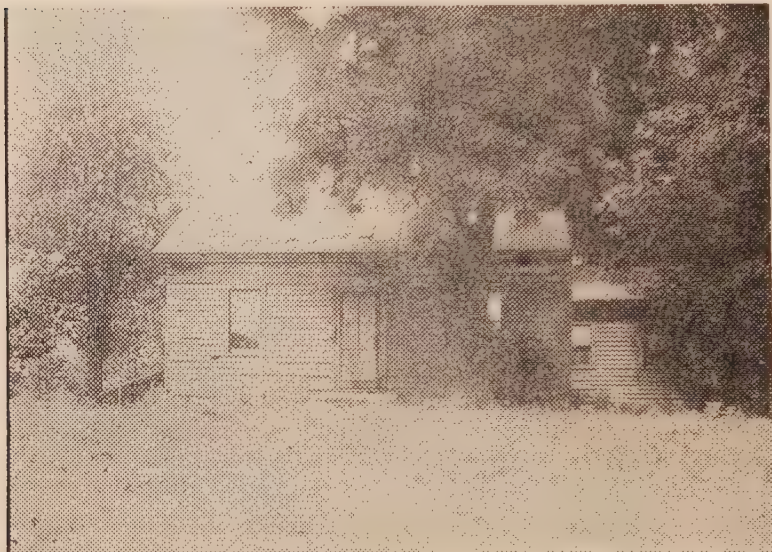
Standing dourly, with a turban of ragged cloth perched on his head, was an old man, a shriveled little fellow. Chief John Okemos, nearly the last of the Indians of central Michigan, and certainly the greatest of them all, stood outside the frame house of James M. Turner, sr., builder of the first frame house in Lansing. The house stood facing Turner street, just north of Clinton street in North Lansing.

Okemos was cold; night was almost upon him. He had called on Mr. Turner before, in such emergencies, when he was far from his wigwam. A beggar, perhaps, but a chief in fact, with no loss of dignity because the oncoming whites had destroyed his hunting grounds and reduced his tribes.

The door swung open and the familiar figure of the old chief stood in bold relief before the eyes of Mrs. Turner. The old man, a pack on his back, held by an improvised rope of

gunny sack, was bent and aged. His gnarled hands grasped a slim stick, a sort of cane.

"Big Chief Jim not home," said Mrs. Turner, anticipating the old man's question. Okemos stood his ground and asked for a night's lodging. The conventions meant nothing to



James M. Turner's house, Lansing's first frame one. It was built in 1847, and torn down only a few years ago, to make way for the Auto Body company factory.

him. He would have been glad to sleep near a stove. Mrs. Turner disappeared, soon returning with several blankets. Possibly she wasn't as sympathetic and understanding with Okemos as was her husband.

"Big Chief Jim not home," she repeated, in explanation, extending the blankets toward the incredulous Indian, remarking, "You can sleep in the barn, chief, it's nice and warm there with these covers in the hay."

A shrug of the shoulders, and a tug of a blanket brought it tighter about his short spare frame. Okemos waved his dark right hand in disdain, turned in his tracks, hesitated and came back to the bright spot on the hard ground, to strike an attitude of defiance.

"Okemos once owned all land here," he growled, mak-

ing a sweep with his arm. "No have to sleep in barn with white man's ponies and cows. Sleep by his own camp fire." And he was gone. A friendship of years between Mr. Turner, one of the very earliest of Lansing pioneers, and Okemos, once lusty chief of the Ottawas, was sundered in an instant by Mrs. Turner, who failed to appreciate the terrible pride in the heart of Okemos, once lord of every acre and man for many miles in any direction from the spot lighted by the oil lamp.

Chief Okemos never again visited "Big Chief Jim." The old chief went away, cold and hungry, carrying his squat figure as nearly erect as his age and old wounds would permit. The toss of his chin and the bearing of his shoulders proclaimed for anyone to see who would, that he was still Okemos, a man of proud lineage.

Okemos died on Sunday, December 5, 1858, at an advanced age. Estimates of his age at death vary, with biographers, from 83 to 119 years.

Primitive Ritual

Albert E. Cowles, whose "Past and Present, Ingham County," stands out as one of the best sources of pioneer information extant, describes the burial of Okemos, with a sweep of intimate knowledge, an easy familiarity, and a flow of diction which commends itself, for its excellence, as a remarkably fine piece of writing. Here is an excerpt:

"On a bleak sixth day of December, 1858, a small train of Indians entered DeWitt, a small village of Clinton county, Michigan, having with them, drawn on a hand sled, the remains of an old chief of the tribe of Okemos. The corpse was that of Okemos, and they who accompanied it were his only kindred. They had brought the body from a favorite hunting ground of the deceased, upon the Looking Glass river, five miles northeast from DeWitt, where the chief had died on the previous day. They brought tobacco, and filled the pouch, powder for the horn, and bullets for the bag. They brought also, contrary to the usual custom of their race, a coffin in which they placed the remains; and then, under the winter sky, took up their silent march toward the Indian village of Shimni-con, on the Grand river, 24 miles below Lansing, the seat of government—which had been in later years the principal residence of the chief—there to commit him to his final resting place, until he should be called to roam in the happy hunting grounds."

The life of Okemos in this section lapsed into its peaceful era, shortly after 1814, when he and his tribe through Gen.

Lewis Cass, governor of Michigan territory, made official peace with the government of the United States.

His "Heirs"

History tells that the United States government gave to Okemos and his family a tract of 140 acres, on a small Indian reservation in Shiawassee county, the place of his birth. The reference to the family of Okemos recalls the fact that his wife is not mentioned in any surviving biography. Cowles says on the subject of children: "Old Okemos in his wanderings was generally accompanied by a troop of papooses whom he called his children." Rufus Hosmer, editor of *The State Republican*, in an obituary of Okemos, published immediately after the old chief's death, said, "Okemos usually traveled with a gang of Nitchies at his heels, from 5 years old and upwards. He called them his own, and probably believed they were, though they looked suspiciously unlike in features."

But Okemos did have two sons, John and Jim. Sometime before his death, Okemos passed on the chieftainship to his son John, who was dubbed "Chief Johnny" by his few and reduced followers. John, a general drunkard and a "no-good Indian," failed to hold the respect of even the red men, much less the white men. John had a son who seems to have become a farmer, much to the contempt of his father, who claimed that because the boy didn't hunt, he was "no Indian." Jim, son of Okemos, however, left a much better account of himself, by growing to be a respected farmer in Montcalm county. Jim was last seen in Lansing when the capitol was dedicated, January 1, 1879. John was seen at Mason in that year or the next. The grandson, the son of John, visited the village of Okemos in 1880, where he was received royally by the pioneers.

A daughter Mary is mentioned in the reference to Okemos made by G. K. Stimson, the present editorial writer of *The State Journal*, in one of his many contributions to Fuller's "Historic Michigan." Mr. Stimson conjectured on the Christian names of the children of Okemos, but from another source in the same volume comes the opinion: "Chief Okemos was never converted, but lived and died a pagan."

Okemos and his family lived on the government-ceded tract until about 1837 or 1838, when the inroads of the whites and reduction of his band by smallpox, dictated to Okemos that he should move to unsettled country again. This brought him to the still virgin territory which later became Ingham county.

Whether Okemos was 83 or 119 when he died; whether he had three children, or 13; whether parts of his life are lost to history; whether he was 5 feet or 5 feet 7 inches tall—none of these things is important as compared with the fact that in his peaceful life with Americans he overcame, by sheer force of manly and virile personality and strength of character, a dislike which might have arisen because of his bloody depredations against whites, and overcame that most tremendous handicap to pride, the necessity of begging. He begged, yes, but let anyone so much as indicate that Okemos was a beggar, and he would depart, more wounded than he ever could have been at the battle of Sandusky.

Okemos will be remembered as the man whose body could withstand terrific wounds, whose proud spirit recoiled at the slightest touch of intimacy, familiarity or condescension; as the man who could never brook patronage from those whose ancestry was no more exalted than his own.

THE ELECTION OF 1856

DEMOCRATS GIRD FOR BATTLE

ON THE afternoon and evening of Thursday, October 24, 1856, the largest democratic mass meeting held in this section of the state during the campaign of that year, took place in Lansing, on the lawn of the old state capitol. It must have been an impressive gathering, for no one can deny that almost half the people of this county were democrats at that time. The election returns show it conclusively.

The only description of that meeting, or the only information that there was such a meeting, is preserved in the files of the old State Republican for October 28. It is a matter for regret that the files of the Lansing Journal have not been preserved for any date within 20 years of this time. The impressiveness of the day is indicated, however, by the efforts the Republican exerted, to indicate that the mass meeting was a failure.

Herman Hascall, publisher and acting editor in the absence of DeWitt Clinton Leach, candidate for congress, handled the story of the democratic mass meeting, and he did it according to the accepted journalistic standards of that day—which meant he would be disparaging, contemptuous, and patronizing.

The election of 1856 was the first national contest for the newly formed republican party, and the State Republican, founded to support that party, was entering the fray, locally, with all its vigor.

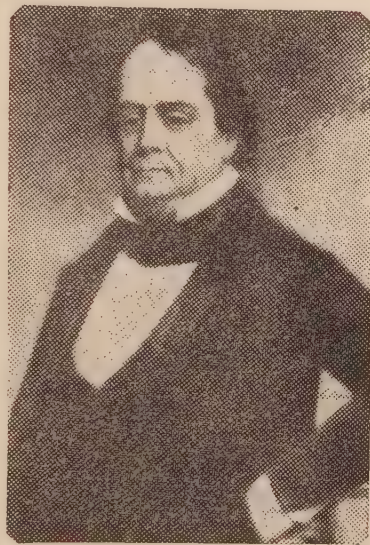
There is no disposition to question the truth of the state-

ments made by Mr. Hascall in his story of that meeting, for the Lansing Journal probably took care of that in proper style. His story showed the meeting to have been a sad failure. He submitted figures of attendance which would indicate it. All that can be said now is that his story is a strain on the imagination of anyone knowing just what happened in Ingham county when the votes were cast almost evenly between republicans and democrats, the week after.

The biggest men in democracy—save for President Franklin Pierce and the democratic candidate, James Buchanan—were in Lansing on that day, and every possible preparation had been made in this town, which had been a stronghold of democracy in every election previous.

General Lewis Cass, nationally known statesman, honored for his accomplishments, of which being Michigan's first governor was but a start toward real greatness, was on hand. He was then a United States senator from Michigan.

Alpheus Felch, former Michigan governor, and candidate again at the coming election, was to address the crowd. Felch and Cass, the biggest attractions in the state in the democratic ranks, were the "headliners" of the afternoon and evening celebrations.



LEWIS CASS

Hascall said there were only 500 persons there and that many of them were republicans. The cold fact that 1,534 democratic votes were cast, the following week, in Ingham county, and that there were but 1,849 republican votes, indicates that the score was about even. Considerable difficulty still remains, as to why only 500 democrats attended the demonstration.

"Thursday was a beautiful day—sky clear, no smoke, no dust. It was the day appointed for the monster gathering of the Buchananiens." This was the "lead" on Hascall's story. He continued: "The procession of all the several delegations,

numbered at its greatest, including music, ladies, infants, men, children, drivers, just 332! Strict count was made and this statement cannot be contradicted. The total of teams was 38. In Aurelius delegation were two teams—one contained the band, half of whom were republicans; in the other were 24 voters, 21 of whom are staunch republicans."

Of Governor Felch, who spoke in the evening, the Republican said: "Mr. Felch's speeches in 1840 were of a manly cast, but the contaminating influence of a pro-slavery party have reduced him to the level of a smooth-tongued demagogue. His speech in Lansing, in our humble opinion, was a perfect failure as an argument."

Cass Slurred

The great figure of democracy of the nation, already known in Europe and America as a statesman of outstanding ability, General Cass, was treated to this: "General Cass spoke in the afternoon to 500 persons, ladies and minors included. Two-fifths, at least, of the voters on the ground were republicans. The general's speech dampened wonderfully the expectations of his friends."

Following Governor Felch's address in the evening, there was a torchlight parade, an event unknown in present day politics. But this was discounted by Hascall, who reported: "After the speech, the grand torch-light display was announced. Only 164 torches were used. In the procession were 78 voters, the rest were ladies and children. And this is the demonstration that was to carry panic to the hearts of the astounded republicans."

In 1856, this "write-up" was considered good reporting. Perhaps it was in harmony with the political addresses, however. Governor Felch was reported to have ridiculed John C. Fremont, republican presidential candidate.

Final advice to Lansing republicans, by Hascall, included the admonition: "Have no dealings with the devil, but work right on—for the whole ticket. The Prince of Darkness, and his handmaid, Slavery, will scruple at no means, however base, to insure success." As to ballot boxes, this was the advice: "See that no false bottoms or slides are about them." Such was the opinion of democracy as held by republican editors of 75 years ago. Whereas Leach, before the campaign had become bitter, had resorted only to detraction, Hascall, near the time for voting, had made the attack so violent that there is basis, today, for thinking that his writing was concerned more with rancor than dispassionate truth.

INGHAM COUNTY GOES REPUBLICAN

WHEN the people of the village of Lansing finished their breakfasts and went out onto the streets, on the morning of November 4, 1856, to read the single page issue of the State Republican, they were prepared to vote in one of the most momentous elections in the entire history of the United States. They didn't know it, though. Tense as they must have been, they would have been even more solemn, had they known that before the next four years had passed, they would be pushed to the brink of the Civil war, a catastrophe which came about through agitation over the burning issue on which they were to vote on that crisp day in November, 1856.

The issue and question was slave holding, against which the republican party had been formed, at Jackson, on July 6, 1854. One of the relatively few presidential elections in which the "issue" meant anything, was that of 1856.

The single sheet of the Lansing Republican which was issued on its regular publication day, Tuesday, November 4, was significant. Some far-sighted democrats had managed to delay delivery of paper stock ordered by the Republican, hoping to prevent its appearance on the streets on that day. But the paper came out, just the same, on a single sheet, instead of its usual double sheet issue.

This act, viewed from a distance of three-quarters of a century, would seem a compliment to the exponent of anti-slavery views, but at the time, it probably gave Herman E. Hascall, publisher and acting editor, something to worry about beside the pay roll.

"It is too late to get more paper in time for the regular issue," readers of the Republican were told in the abbreviated edition of November 4. "Paper in plenty was ordered a long time ago; the order was filled and we have bills for the same in our possession. But our politics are not of the right stripe to suit the carriers, and it is 'accidentally forgotten.' We shall issue an extra next week containing election returns" was the confident note in the editorial paragraph.

But the republican party was to be defeated by the vote cast on November 4, 1856, and the hopes of the State Republican were dashed as well, despite the fact that the state of Michigan placed itself in the republican column. The state and local elections were carried by the republicans, however, and this would seem to make about an even break for the State Republican, the influence of which was centered in Lansing,

and which could not, therefore, be held accountable for the results outside this area. Ingham county went republican for the first time; the democrats had carried the county in the election of 1854.

Thus, John C. Fremont, republican candidate for president, was defeated despite the fact that for days following the election, returns indicated that he had received the popular vote over James Buchanan, if not the electoral. But later returns showed that the democrat had won on both counts.

According to the analysis made by the State Republican, the vote of Pennsylvania was one of the deciding issues, and it went democratic, largely, it was thought, because Buchanan was a Pennsylvanian. Michigan and Pennsylvania had been voting the democratic ticket rather consistently up to that time and it was probably expected that the Keystone state would change, as did Michigan, with the new political alignment. But it didn't — until 1860, when it went republican. It has, every presidential election since then, save in 1912, when the electoral vote went for Theodore Roosevelt's "Bull Moose" party.

Feeling was high, in Lansing, and in the nation generally, before and after the election of 1856. The vote was cast on Tuesday, but the result wasn't known here until four days later, on Saturday, November

LANSING STATE REPUBLICAN

DE WITT C. LEACH, EDITOR.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1856.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

NATIONAL TICKET.

FOR PRESIDENT,

JOHN C. FREMONT.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT,

WILLIAM L. DAYTON.

FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS,

FERNANDO C. BEAMAN, of Lenawee.

HARMON CHAMBERLIN, of St. Clair.

CHAUNCEY H. MILLEN, of Washtenaw.

OLIVER JOHNSON, of Monroe.

WILLIAM H. WITHEY, of Kent.

THOMAS J. DRAKE, of Oakland.

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS—FOURTH DIST.,

DE WITT C. LEACH.

STATE TICKET.

For Governor—KINSLEY S. BINGHAM.

Lieutenant Governor—GEORGE A. COE.

Secretary of State—JOHN MCKINNEY.

Auditor General—WHITNEY JONES.

State Treasurer—SILAS M. HOLMES.

Attorney General—JACOB M. HOWARD.

Sup't of Public Instruction—IRA MAYHEW.

Com. Land Office—SEYMOUR B. TREADWELL.

Member of Board of Ed.—GEORGE WILLARD.

FOR STATE SENATOR—22D DISTRICT,

FOR REPRESENTATIVES IN LEGISLATURE, INGHAM CO.,

Eastern Dist.—NEWTON N. MUSCOTT.

Western " " " " " "—JAMES TURNER.

COUNTY TICKET.

For Sheriff—RICHARD R. LOWE.

Treasurer—JOHN H. MULLITT.

Register of Deeds—ZACCHERUS BARNES.

Clerk—ANGEL R. L. COVERT.

Judge of Probate—WILLIAM H. PINCKNEY.

Prosecuting Attorney—GEORGE I. PARSONS.

Circuit Court Com'ler—HORACE B. WILLIAMS.

Coroners } MARVIN GEER,

 } HURAM BRISTOL.

Sheriff—THOMAS J. BROWN.

Photostat of republican ticket in the election of 1856, as carried for months before the election, on Page 1, Column 1, of The State Republican.

8, after "the arrival of the mail from Jackson confirmed the previous impression of the election of Buchanan," as the Republican put it in its issue for November 11, 1856.

Tense Days

The intensity of anxiety on both sides, in those intervening four days can only be imagined. No mention of it is found in the old files, but when the news did arrive, local democrats started a celebration which culminated with the firing of a heavy cannon along Washington avenue. The concussion of the air, caused by the shots, broke windows up and down the streets, and generally disturbed the peace—of the republicans.

DeWitt Clinton Leach, editor of the Republican, who returned to his desk after campaigning in the election which resulted in his going to congress, frowned heavily on the cannon incident, editorialized with solemnity and deadly deliberation, and made the most of it. If the result had been different, the republicans might very conceivably have fired a cannon on their own account. Possibly they would have fired several cannons.

Tolerance, easy for the reader 75 years later, leads to the belief that the so-called "Bogus Democrats," far from being bent on pernicious vandalism, were probably, and understandably, drunk, in accordance with a queer old custom of those days—and these. Lansing, with every city and village of the nation, thus settled back to catch its breath for a time following the election, but not for long, for national developments having a direct bearing on the Civil war, today seen as inevitable, were shortly to protrude themselves into the consciousness of the people, slave holders and anti-slavery advocates, all of whom were being drawn together in bloody battle.

The immediate results of the election of 1856, so far as Lansing was concerned, were well expressed in the words of Editor Leach of the State Republican, who said, in his issue of November 11, 1856, that: "The time has come when a black republican, or even an old line whig CAN live in Ingham county."

Leach congratulated local republicans, and in an editorial, commented on the fact that after a three months campaign, that party had carried 12 "free" states, and that Fremont led Buchanan in the popular vote (but he didn't) even if not in the electoral vote. Republicans were told to "gird for certain victory in 1860," which prediction was to come true.

THE CANNON INCIDENT

THE following editorial appeared in *The State Republican* of November 11, 1856, following boisterous democratic celebration in which a cannon was fired in Lansing:

"RUFFIANISM RAMPANT IN LANSING"

"No man could have made us believe that a large company of men could be brought together in our usually quiet village who would be guilty of doing what was done in our streets on Saturday night.

"Immediately after the arrival of the mail from Jackson, which confirmed previous impressions of the election of Buchanan, the cannon was brought out, and firing commenced somewhere between the Benton House and the Lansing House.

"As it was wheeled down the street attended by a large crowd, several of our most respectable ladies who happened to be passing up the walk, crossed the street to avoid meeting the rabble. Having discovered and recognized them as those who had earnestly sympathized with the Republicans in the recent contest, this chivalrous company of bogus Democrats stopped and gave 'Three groans for the Republican ladies of Lansing,' and then, as if that was not enough, used toward them language which would not be deemed polite even among a drunken rabble, in the lowest groggery in the land.

"Passing on down the street they fired a heavy gun immediately in front of the Columbus House, which did, as it was evidently designed to do, a large amount of damage.—Proceeding on down the street and firing from time to time, cheering for the Democracy and groaning for Republicans, as they had an 'inalienable right' to do, they were met at the bridge by persons who informed them that Mr. Angell, the proprietor of the Seymour House, was lying dangerously ill, and earnestly requested them not to fire near his house. They promised not to do so, but proceeding up the street, in a very few minutes afterwards, they fired a heavy gun in the street in front of his house.—Again they were appealed to, and again promised not to fire near Angell's house. Passing on to the residence of D. L. Case, Esq., they gave him a gun and used gross and obscene language to a lady who was seen at the door.

"Not yet satisfied with what they had done, they returned to the Seymour House and in the narrow street directly under the window of the room in which the sick man lay, fired one of the heaviest guns of the night. The windows were shattered in an instant, and the cold gusts of wind rushed into the sick

man's room. If that man dies, who of that ruffian band can lay his hand upon his heart and say he is innocent?

"But the night's work was not yet complete. One heavy charge was yet in the gun, and it must be made to do good service. So they returned to the Columbus House, and so placing and elevating their gun as to make sure work, applied the match, and the wind whistled through every room in the front part of the house. Even mirrors in the room were shivered, and worse than all, the shot well-nigh proved fatal to the young child of J. G. Darling, Esq.

"In Kansas the only 'Free State Hotel' was battered and burned down by the ruffians of Missouri. In Lansing two 'Free State Hotels' are literally riddled by men who claim to be law-abiding citizens, and yet destroy property and imperil lives of the citizens as if neither was of the least account.

"We have the names of some of the prominent actors in the scene, which we may or may not make public as circumstances seem to require."

EDUCATIONAL BEGINNINGS

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

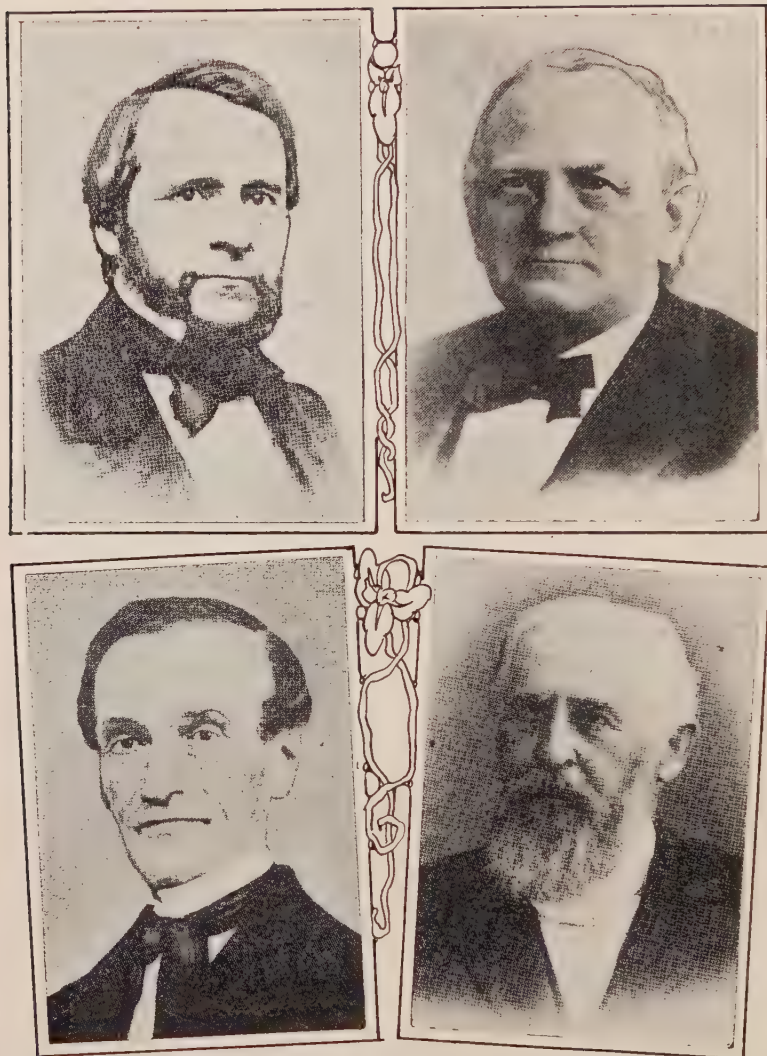
By DR. FRANK S. KEDZIE
(Historian, Michigan State College)

THE pioneers decided that Michigan should and always would be an agricultural state. The legislature of 1849, led by Titus Dort of Dearborn, organized itself into a state agricultural society, with Gov. Epaphroditus Ransom as president. The moving force in this new society was John C. Holmes, a Detroit business man greatly interested in horticulture. As secretary of the society, he strongly urged the need of a state agricultural school. Spending the winter of 1855 in Lansing at his own expense, he secured the passage of an act authorizing the purchase of not less than 500 acres of land within 10 miles of Lansing, as a site for this agricultural school, price not to exceed \$15 per acre.

Various sites were offered, DeWitt on the north, Pine lake on the east, Delta on the west, were considered, but the offer of A. R. Burr of Lansing, 676 acres, three and one-half miles east of the capitol building, was finally selected as a judicious and admirable location, and so the state farm became a suburb of Lansing on the plank road to Detroit. So impassable were the roads leading to the college, with the exception of the plank road, that the brick for the building was made from the clay from the campus. Beginning in the spring of 1856, two buildings were constructed; the west wing of the main college building (we knew it as old College hall) and the dormitory to accommodate the young students, (called



This is old "Saint's Rest," the first dormitory of Michigan State college, as it looked in the '50's. In the far background the old College hall is seen. Students had to work manually, then, and some paused in their labors for this picture



Four of the luminaries of the first faculty of Michigan Agricultural college are here shown. Upper left shows Joseph R. Williams, president; upper right, John C. Holmes, professor of horticulture, prime mover in the establishment of the college, and the first man called to the faculty; lower left shows Calvin Tracy, professor of mathematics, and supervisor of the dormitory; lower right shows Louis Ransom Fisk, professor of chemistry

"Saint's Rest") completed the spring following, constituted the plan.

James H. Gunnison, present at the dedication exercises of the college, recently described the scenes and circumstances of that day of dedication, when the college was opened. His clear recollection of the ceremonies was interesting. "Of the 676 acres belonging to the college, only about one-half an acre was cleared at the time of the dedication in 1857," commented Mr. Gunnison. He continued: "The two buildings, College hall, the Boarding hall, and the brick barn, had the appearance of being built in the midst of the woods, with nothing on the immediate premises but some burned trees, rubbish from building, and mud holes and huckleberry bushes. I remember well the day of dedication. It dawned fair and bright, this May 13, 1857, with a waft in the air that just seemed to permeate everything and everyone present. The exercises were held in the chapel of College hall, the place of every important meeting for years afterwards. The chapel was filled to overflowing, for interested people came from miles around. The only hack that was driven between Lansing and the college brought out the governor and members of the legislature. On the platform sat Gov. Kinsley S. Bingham, surrounded by the first faculty of the college. This was composed of Joseph R. Williams, president; Calvin Tracy, professor of mathematics; Lewis Ransom Fisk, professor of chemistry; Robert D. Weeks, professor of English literature; John C. Holmes, professor of horticulture; Enoch Bancker, assistant professor of chemistry."

Early "Dormitories"

The first year shows an attendance of 61 students. Placed as they were, four in a room, heated simply by wood stoves, lighted at night by candles, they certainly were an unusual group of young men if they stayed on under the conditions of life at the college of those days. There were students from 24 different counties.

From Lansing came Daniel L. Case, jr., Albert E. Cowles, John A. Elder, Charles T. Foster, William W. Green, Theodore S. Holmes, Charles H. Lewis, Henry G. Lewis, Merrit C. Skinner and M. G. Snyder. From Okemos: R. B. Callahan, M. D. Chatterton, George P. Humphrey, Samuel L. Kilbourne, and George N. Walker.

The schedule of studies included chemistry, algebra, or arithmetic, and English. The program for the day—5:30 a. m., rising bell; 5:45, prayers; 6:00, breakfast; 6:30 to 9:30, work.

Other sections for work were 9:30 to 12:30; 1:30 to 4:30. Three hours' a day manual labor were required of each student. Dinner was at 1 p. m., so that a student's day gave him three hours' work and three recitation hours. The only facility for living, for both students and faculty, was the dormitory, the two upper floors providing rooms for students, the first floor rooms for the steward and help, and a room for Professor Tracy, who was in general charge of the building during the first year, to preserve order and decorum.

The first steward was James M. Shearer, who, together with his wife, attempted to run both the old Lansing house, located on the southeast corner of Washtenaw and Washington streets, and the Boarding club for the students. The duties of the steward, besides providing for the meals, were to bring in the provisions over roads which we should consider impassable. So hard was the task that Mr. Shearer and his wife resigned in the middle of the term, after carrying the responsibilities of the stewardship for a little over a year. The wife of the president, Mrs. Williams, together with the students, united in caring for the Boarding club until a successor could be secured.

Houses for the teaching staff did not exist during the first year, consequently the president and the other members of the staff were obliged to live in Lansing, and make the difficult journey back and forth daily from the campus to the

Michigan Agricultural College!

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE of the State of Michigan is located three miles east of the village of Lansing, upon a farm of nearly seven hundred acres. The West Wing of the College Building, and a Boarding House have been erected, and arrangements have been made for opening the Institution the first Wednesday of April next.

As but a limited number of students can be accommodated, owing to the want of necessary buildings, and as application from the counties of the State are entitled to preference in the order of time in which they are made, it becomes important that persons, desirous of securing situations, to make their application for admission at an early day. These may be made to the Secretary of the State Board of Education by letter, at Lansing, at any time before the fifteenth day of January.

Age and Scholarship of Applicants.

Applicants for admission must have attained the age of fourteen years, and must have acquired a good primary school education.

Tuition and Board.

Tuition will be free to pupils from this State. Arrangements will be made to accommodate students with board, at reasonable rates, in the boarding house on the premises.

Manual Labor.

Every student will be required to devote a portion of each day to manual labor, for which he will be entitled to receive an equitable remuneration.

Course of Study.

The course of study has been arranged with direct reference to the wants and interests of the agricultural class in our State. It will embrace a wide range of instruction in English Literature, in Mathematics, and in Natural Science. Special attention will be given to the Theory and Practice of Agriculture in all its departments and minutiae.

Term—Time and Attendance.

The First Term of the Institution will commence the first Wednesday of October. The Second Term will commence the first Wednesday in December, and end on the last Wednesday of February. Students will not be received for less time than one term, unless for special reasons satisfactory to the Board of Instruction. Persons desirous of admission, should present themselves for examination at the College the Monday previous to its opening.

By order of the State Board of Education.

IRA MAYHEW, Secretary.

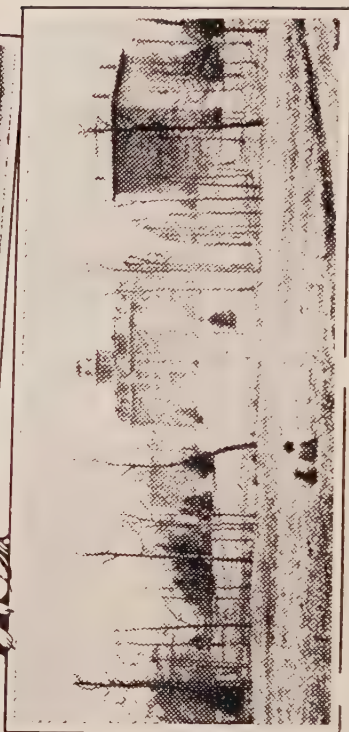
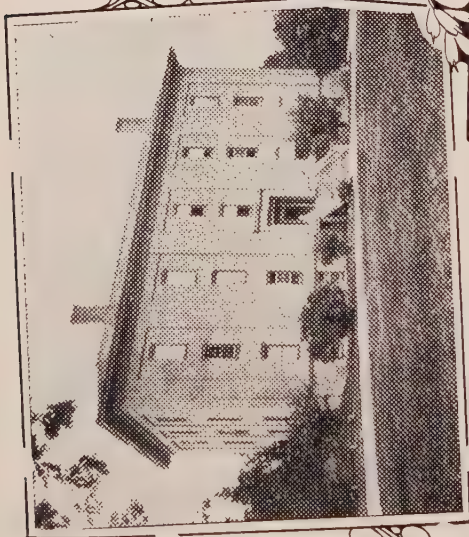
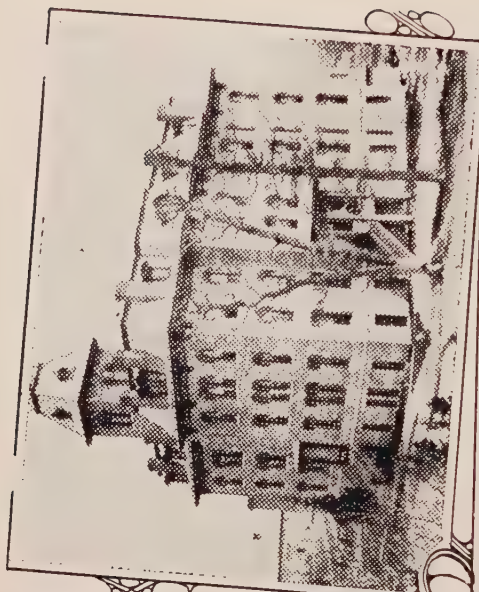
LANSING, Dec. 10th, 1856.

87*4

"M. A. C.'s" first advertisement as it appeared in *The State Republican* for December 23, and for many months following.

Monday Dec. 20th 2 1/2 Chopping.
 Tuesday " 21st 2 1/2 Splitting Wood.
 Wednesday " 22d 2 1/2 " "
 Thursday " 23 2 1/2 " "
 Friday " 24 2 1/2 " "
 Saturday " 25 2 1/2 Chopping "
 Monday " 27 2 1/2 Drawing Up generally.
 Tuesday " 28 4 Going Down Down.
 Wednesday " 29 2 1/2 Chopping.
 Thursday " 30 2 1/2 Assorting Potatoes.
 Friday " 31 2 1/2 " "
 Saturday Jan. 1 0 Sore eye.
 Monday " 3d 2 1/2 Drawing Wood.
 Tuesday " 4 2 1/2 Splitting Wood.
 Wednesday " 5 3/4 Clearing Spruce.
 Thursday " 6 2 1/2 Chopping.
 Friday " 7 2 1/2 " "
 Saturday " 8 2 1/2 Drawing Wood & Freezing.

When Edward Granger, of Detroit, was a freshman at Michigan Agricultural college, in 1858, he, like his fellows, was required to labor, manually, every day in the week except Sunday. Here is a page of his "labor account book," which he kept with meticulous care. The entries are for the last part of 1858 and the opening of 1859. Quite the most astounding entry of the whole book is shown here. "Saturday, Jan. 1, 0 hours of work, sore eye." It was Saturday—it was New Year's day, too, but the only reason he didn't get out and chop wood was because he had a sore eye. Just what the last item, "Drawing Wood and Freezing," might mean isn't known. Student Granger was probably freezing every day. Perhaps he meant it as a joke. The students were paid from 6 to 10 cents per hour for their labor



The first buildings at Michigan State college. Above, College hall; upper right, Williams hall; to the right, campus view showing the buildings, the history of which is sketched on the opposite page

College hall, first building of Michigan State college, or Michigan Agricultural college, as it was known until 1925, was built in 1856, and used when the college opened, the following year. It was the most memorable building ever on the campus, being the first in the world to be erected for the purpose of agricultural education. In 1913 it was declared unsafe and its use was prohibited. An attempt to reinforce its hollow brick walls with steel and concrete failed in September, 1918, when the walls buckled at the bottom from the weight and pressure of the concrete, and the building collapsed in ruins. Williams hall, built in 1868 and 1869, was first used in 1870. It was named in honor of the first president of the college, and was used as a dormitory and boarding hall. It was the first steam heated building on the campus, and its cost was \$31,500. A fire destroyed the historic structure, January 1, 1921. In the distance, at left, in the campus view, "Saint's Rest" can be seen dimly.



town. During the rainy months of spring it was found advisable, rather than to follow the road, to follow the higher ground which lies between US-16 and East Michigan avenue at the present day. This on foot, of course. College hall, as we know it, consisted of a basement containing two wood furnaces with pipes leading from the furnaces placed in the outer walls to heat the three stories above. Naturally enough, the heating apparatus was entirely insufficient, was a great fire risk, and the temperature of the recitation rooms in the building during cold weather varied between 32 and 50 degrees. On the first floor was the chemical laboratory at the north end, the chapel at the south end. On the second floor, two large classrooms and two offices, one for the president and one for the treasurer. On the third floor there was a library in one corner, a museum in the other, and three small classrooms. Through faulty construction, the roof in both college buildings leaked, and frequently the plastering fell. This necessitated a change in the construction of the roof on College hall, which was made early in the year '59. For 14 years following the opening of the college this building contained all the facilities afforded for the instruction of students inside. Outside was the wild, wooded farm, which was to be reduced to cultivatable fields by the labor of the students' hands.

The character of the work called upon by the authorities for the students to perform is shown by excerpts from a diary kept by E. G. Granger, Detroit boy. When the student was not busy in his room at his studies, he could go over to the library, and there, from the very beginning of the college, he had two newspapers which he could consult, the Lansing Republican, and the Flint Citizen, for they were the first newspapers placed free of charge in the college library. The rest of the library consisted principally of books contributed by the state agricultural society, treatises on agriculture and reports from similar societies in other states. Aside from this, there were some books sent by Horace Greeley of the New York Tribune, who took a very great interest in the institution, and who was early a strong advocate of its work.

Early Graduates

The first graduate from the college course from Lansing, was G. Wyman Harrison, who graduated in 1865. Of present day Lansing residents, who were in attendance at the college in earlier years, I note James H. Seager, now residing at 533 South Grand avenue, a special student in chemistry in 1863;

Benjamin F. Davis, president of the City National bank, a regular student in 1862. [Editor's note: In January, 1930, Mr. Davis was elected chairman of the board of directors of the City National bank; R. H. Scott succeeded him as president.]

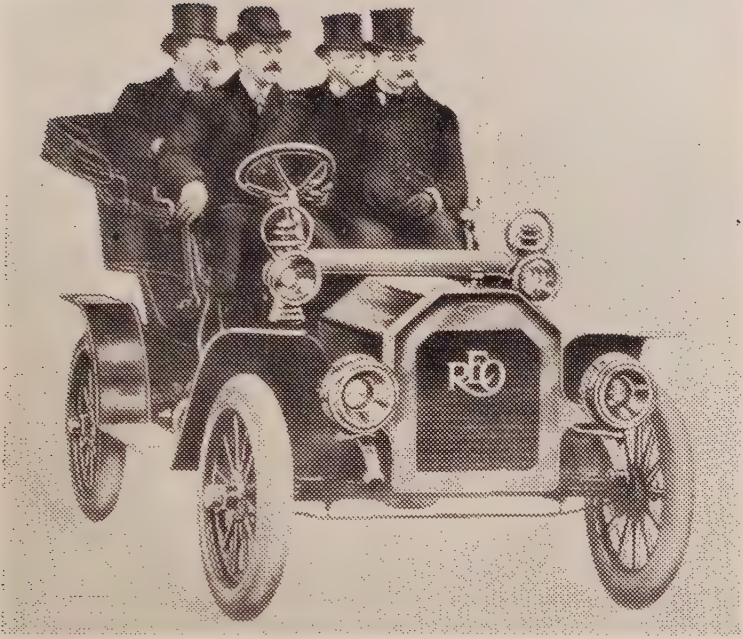
Michigan's agricultural college, the first in the world, came near being the last, perhaps, for while other states were no doubt watching its progress with anxiety, it is recorded that its early popularity soon died away and the student body dwindled fast. Dr. Robert C. Kedzie, my father, quoted in Beal's history of the school, said: "The condition of the road between Lansing and the college made it impossible for students to live in the city while they attended classes at the college, hence many students were rejected for want of room, who returned home to spread discouraging reports from the college. The average attendance the first two years was 132, then it dropped off the next year to 82, and the year after, to 48. The novelty had worn off, the enthusiasm had died out, and a reaction of a pronounced character had set in."

The early character of the college long remained, but physical evidence of the passage of time is offered from the deaths of many of the early luminaries of the faculty and by the deterioration of the first buildings. President Williams died at Constantine, June 15, 1861; Professor Tracy, at north Lansing, July 28, 1889; Professor Fisk, at Denver, Colo., February 14, 1901; Professor Weeks, at East Orange, N. J., February 23, 1898; Professor Holmes at Detroit, December 17, 1887. Prof. Theophilus C. Abbot, president of the college from December, 1862, to November, 1884, came early to the college, taking the place of Professor Weeks, as professor of English literature.



MRS. JOHN N. BUSH

Ten years before Michigan Agricultural college was founded, this woman, Lansing's first public school teacher, had commenced her work. Starting in May, 1847, when she came to Lansing, she commenced classes with 10 students. She was paid \$2 a week, and she had to provide her own board out of that.



Theodore Roosevelt, president of the United States, rode out East Michigan avenue to the Michigan Agricultural college in 1907, to take part in the semi-centennial celebration of the founding of that institution, and here is a picture taken as he was being driven along. Driving the Reo touring car is R. E. Olds, organizer and then president of the Reo Motor Car company; behind him, in the rear seat, one sees the familiar face of "Teddy" Roosevelt, looking mighty interested, if not "dee-lighted." Beside the president of the nation rode Jonathan LeMoyné Snyder, president of M. A. C. On the front seat with Mr. Olds was William Loeb, confidential secretary to President Roosevelt. The picture was snapped shortly before noon, Friday, May 31, 1907, and the president gave his address at the commencement exercises, at 2 o'clock that afternoon



Here is "Split Rock" for many years a landmark between Lansing and East Lansing. The tree which grew to split the rock was watched from its "twig" stage through the years of its progress, by innumerable cyclists, who used to rendezvous on this spot, on their long ride between the two villages. The rock was on the north side of East Michigan avenue, near Mifflin street, or the city's present city limits. In the earlier days of Michigan State college there was a by-path for bicyclists, leading just north of the rock. When paving was laid here, the rock was offered to the college at East Lansing. One piece of the many tons of rock was taken, and stands on the campus today, a little southwest of the Memorial building, identified with an appropriate bronze plate. The rest of the rock went into the construction of the stone porch of the house erected by Fay G. Dunning, 1001 East Grand River avenue, East Lansing. Mr. Dunning lives in the house at present

The college was founded primarily for boys; and for boys who wanted to be scientific farmers. But in 1870 women were admitted to the student body. They matriculated without any particular attention being drawn to their presence. Ten in number, half of whom were from Lansing, these women matriculated at the college on February 23, 1870: Isabel Allen, Catherine C. Bacon, Ella Brock, Gertrude Howe, and Mary L. Jones, all of Lansing; Mary E. Daniells, Wacousta, Mich.; Harriet E. Dexter, and Elizabeth E. Sessions, both of Ionia; Emma H. Hume, Medina, Mich.; Catherine E. Steel, North Henderson, Ill. The women studied chemistry, botany, horticulture, floriculture, trigonometry, surveying, entomology and bookkeeping.

None of the first women students seems to have graduated from the college, however, for the first woman to earn her diploma was Miss Eva D. Coryell, from this county. She entered in 1875, graduated in 1879. In 1896 a women's course was included in the regular curriculum of the college, and in 1900 a women's building was erected on the campus.

But the struggles to keep the young college from falling back into the jungle of swamps, charred logs and tamarack, were many. The third building on the clearing which was later to expand into the present campus, was a brick horse barn, completed in 1857. This same year saw the erection of four homes for the faculty members. None of these buildings is standing today, of course.

Control of the college, originally with the state board of education, passed March 15, 1861, to the state board of agriculture which wields this power today.

"Prexies"

Since its establishment and opening, Michigan Agricultural college has enjoyed the administration of a list of presidents among whom have been numbered men of great learning, ability and outstanding fitness for their tasks. Many of the names of those who have presided over the activities of this institution are well known in the educational world, and in Lansing and East Lansing because of their social prominence and civic activities while identified with the college.

Following is a list of the presidents, from the inception of the college:

Joseph Rickelson Williams, January, 1857-1859.

Lewis Ransom Fisk, acting president, 1859-December, 1862.

Theophilus Capen Abbot, December, 1862-November 24, 1884.

Edwin Willits, 1885-1889.

Robert Clark Kedzie, acting president, March-September, 1889.

Oscar Clute, 1889-1893.

Lewis Griffin Gorton, August, 1893-December, 1895.

Jonathan LeMoyne Snyder, December 11, 1896-September 15, 1915.

Frank Stewart Kedzie, 1915-September 1, 1921.

David Friday, 1921-1923.

Robert Sidney Shaw, acting president, one year, 1923-1924.

Kenyon Leech Butterfield, September 1, 1924-June 1, 1927.

Robert Sidney Shaw, June 1, 1927, to present time. (President Shaw was acting president from February 1, 1927, when Mr. Butterfield was given leave of absence following his resignation.)

The name of the institution is a subject which arouses considerable feeling in two quarters. On May 13, 1925, exactly 68 years after the school was opened, the name was officially changed from "Michigan Agricultural college" to "Michigan State College of Agriculture and Applied Science." Practically, this change has been from "Michigan Aggies" to "Michigan State" so far as the public is concerned. Students of the present day seem to resent the implication connoted by the word "agriculture," while many old "grads" in Lansing and elsewhere, scorn the new name. However that may be, it doesn't change the fact that, founded as an agricultural college, its scope and function has broadened enormously.

First of its kind in the world, it stands today the successful result of an experiment which has inspired the establishment of scores of similar institutions, of which the one in East Lansing must always be a sort of ancestral mother, guide and inspiration.

MICHIGAN FEMALE COLLEGE

ONE of the most important figures in the early educational history of Lansing was Miss Abigail C. Rogers, who, with her sister Delia, conducted, for 14 years, a seminary in Lansing, which has gone down famed in history as the Michigan Female college. With prophetic vision which would not be

denied, Miss Rogers, coming here with Delia, in 1855, brought about, by the force of her own personality and energy, the establishment of an institution of higher learning for women—long before men believed such a project practical.

Finding no school ready to receive women, she brought about the building of a college exclusively for women, in Lansing. Boys, however, were accepted in the lower, or college preparatory division of the college. Perhaps the name, "Michigan Female college," was the expression of a wish rather than the realization of an actuality, but such was the name. More than 1,000 students were educated in the Lansing college before it went out of existence when Miss A. C. Rogers, the soul of the institution, died, in 1869. The school was opened in 1855.

Miss Abigail C. Rogers was born at Avon, Livingston county, N. Y., in 1818. In 1847, she came to Michigan, the younger state, which seemed, perhaps, to hold the greater opportunity. Her first position was as a faculty member at Albion college. Her sister, Delia, accompanied her, and secured a tutoring position on the same staff. The pay was small, the school was new, and the work wasn't far enough advanced, so Miss A. C. Rogers went to the state normal school at Ypsilanti, as preceptress. It was at this school that she met Miss H. K. Clapp, the woman who helped found the original "Michigan Female college" in Lansing, later to start one of her own.

Doubtless the two women found their common interest, at Ypsilanti, and resolved to pioneer in the movement for feminine education. Since the state normal did not supply the ideal sought by the indefatigable Miss Rogers, she, with Miss Clapp, came to Lansing in 1855 to try her luck at impressing her ideas on the minds of legislators, so that state aid might be extended to the venture. It wasn't—not ever—while Miss Rogers lived.

Self-Starting

But the woman wasn't the kind who could sit down to rest while waiting for public sentiment to crystallize. Rather, she started her school soon after coming to the town. Her sister, Delia, came to her side, from Albion, and these two, with Miss Clapp, were to form the first faculty. The idea of a school for women hadn't exactly taken the town by storm, because of the necessity for financial backing required for the venture, and this sort of sentiment hadn't been aroused as yet. Very likely the determination of Miss A. C. Rogers inspired the aid which was to come.

Men of wealth, of Lansing and Detroit, seemed interested, and a tract of 20 acres at the head of what was then Franklin street, now West Grand River avenue, was donated to the school.

The Michigan Female college was first opened on Tuesday, October 23, 1855, in the hall of representatives, in the old state capitol. The State Republican for that date gives the wrong opening day, but later corrected itself. The story, in part:

"It is now a settled thing that we are to have a first class institution for the education of females. This week Thursday is commencement day. The school rooms for the present will be in the capitol building, though suitable buildings are soon to be erected for this purpose. A large bell has been provided for the use of the school, which will be suspended in the dome of the capitol. The institute will be in the immediate charge of Misses Rogers and Clapp, so well and favorably known in connection with the State Normal institute."

In the issue for the following week, however, the State Republican for October 30 quotes its contemporary, frankly and blandly, as follows:

"We are indebted to the Journal for some facts relating to the college. It opened on Tuesday of last week, instead of Thursday, as we erroneously stated. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, a violent snow storm prevailing, the teachers were greeted by a goodly number of pupils, about 30 having entered the college."

The Republican, in its story for October 30, went on to give a thorough description of the curriculum which is invaluable today for the names of the first faculty members. The description went on to say:

"The faculty, as at present constituted, consists of Miss A. C. Rogers, Miss H. K. Clapp, Miss Delia Rogers, Professor Borgman, late of Cincinnati, and Professor Horner. The first three named are well known as most accomplished ladies, and efficient teachers, the first two having been engaged in teaching at the State Normal school, and the third at the Albion seminary, giving complete satisfaction. Professor Borgman will teach instrumental music and give instruction in German."

"Professor Borgman" was Charles H. Borgman, music instructor, who lived on South Capitol avenue, near Main street, or near the Benton house as he noted later in his advertisements for students to take private music lessons, a side line for him. "Professor Horner" was John Horner, recent graduate

of the state normal school at Ypsilanti, from which Miss Rogers appears to have drafted him.

Public Aid

It was during the spring of 1856 that definite action was taken with regard to backing of the school by the public. Some business men in the north end of the town raised a donation of \$20,000 for the school building. These men included Harry H. Smith, Daniel L. Case, James Turner and Alvin N. Hart. The Misses Rogers had some money of their own to invest in the building which was eventually erected, to stand, today, as a shell forming the nucleus of the present school for the blind, on the exact site.

That the building operations were not proceeding very fast, however, is shown by the fact that when the second fall term opened, Miss Rogers had to find quarters outside of the state capitol, because of the impending gathering of the legislature, January 1, 1857, in the middle of the school year.

These facts are shown by the State Republican for August 19, 1856, which while written on the subject of annual examinations at the school, with a laudatory reference to Miss Rogers, contains information of cold historic value. The reason for the story was that examinations for the students had been "held in the capitol on the eleventh and twelfth inst." It continued:

"During the erection of the college buildings, the large edifice south of the capitol, known as the Ohio house, has been secured for its use and is now undergoing repairs in anticipation of the beginning of the next college year, which will be the 17th of September, next, with the following faculty: Miss A. C. Rogers, principal and teacher of mental and moral philosophy, and botany; Miss Delia Rogers, teacher of mathematics, drawing and oil painting; Mr. John Horner, teacher of Greek and Latin, and natural philosophy; Miss Harriet Sessions, teacher of English grammar, geography and history; Miss Eliza Seager, assistant teacher; Prof. Charles Borgman, teacher of vocal and instrumental music, and modern languages."

The Ohio house, "south of the capitol," was on a location now directly "back," or west of the present Downey hotel, on the south side of West Washtenaw street. The state capitol was then in the square due north of this location—on a whole city block, as described in stories of the state capitols.

Note well that Miss H. K. Clapp was not on the faculty, as given in the August 19 story. There were some additions,

but the fact of Miss Clapp's absence is the most significant.

The Rivals

In the week following, the issue of August 26, an advertisement for Miss Clapp's "Michigan Female College and Preparatory School for Girls and Boys," appeared in the old newspaper. This must have created a sensation in Lansing when subscribers read it. This notice said that Miss Clapp's school would be conducted "in the state house, starting September 16." One statement is arresting however: that being that "the first quarter of the second year" would start then. This led, at first, to the conclusion that Miss Clapp was merely handling a department of Miss Rogers' school. Use of the word "heretofore" heightened this idea.

Not for long did this impression last, in turning the pages of the State Republican, for on September 9, on the editorial page, in a story of progress in the town, we read: "... and a female seminary building is now to be constructed, the cost of which will exceed \$17,000. This month, two seminaries for the education of both sexes will commence." The "\$17,000 construction" was for Miss Rogers' school in the north end, of course, but reference to "two seminaries" means that Miss Clapp's was a separate one. If, perhaps, it was meant that two "new" ones would commence, then the second new one might well have been the co-educational school advertised by "R. Taylor," which started at this time. In any event, it seems well established that there were two "Female colleges."

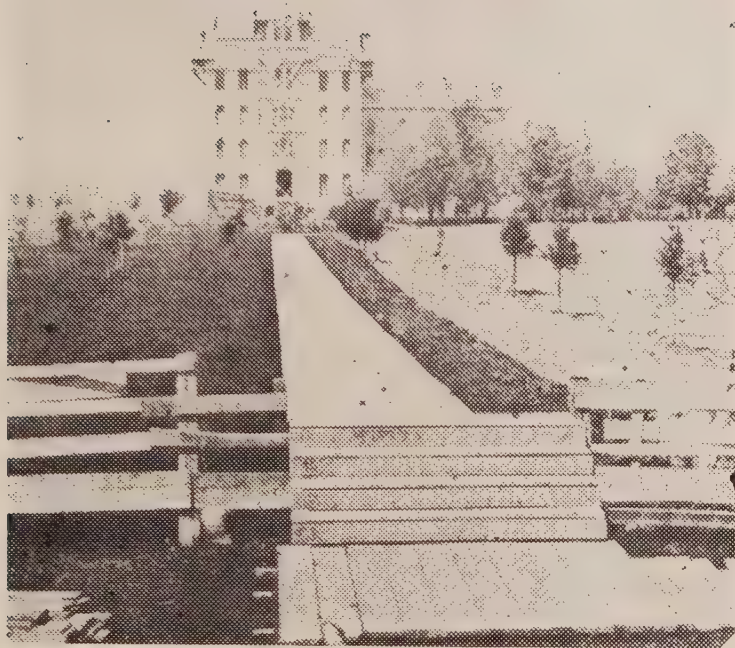
Miss Rogers probably didn't like to have to read Miss Clapp's "ad" every time she picked up the State Republican, so she herself started advertising, in the November 11, 1856, issue. It was the first time she had spent any money with the newspaper, her previous publicity being news stories. Miss Rogers' ads were prim and assured; Miss Clapp, on the contrary, seemed to bristle with challenge and she included an imposing list of references, some of the "best" people in the city, as though to say to Miss Rogers: "So there—see who's on my side, now!" Neither advertisement evoked any editorial comment whatever from DeWitt Clinton Leach, Republican editor at this time. This was very odd; he had been quick to comment on any and every item of interest in the town.

Notice.

THE subscribers will open a school for both sexes on Monday, Dec. 1st. Rooms, furnished with stoves, bedsteads, chairs and tables, will be rented to those who wish to board themselves. The course of studies will be rigorous, and will include the Common Branches and the higher exact Sciences. Every effort will be made for the comfort, happiness and advancement of students.

R. TAYLOR.

Lansing, Nov. 17, 1856.



Lansing, Nov. 10, 1856.

MICHIGAN FEMALE COLLEGE
AND PREPARATORY SCHOOL. The second Quarter of the Winter Term will commence on Thursday, the 27th of November.

For terms of Board and Tuition, apply to the Principal, Miss A. C. ROGERS.

Lansing, Nov. 1, 1856.

81

Michigan Female College

—AND—

Preparatory School for Girls & Boys.

The first quarter of the second year of the Michigan Female College and Preparatory School for Girls and Boys, will open the 16th of September next, in the State House, under the direction of Miss H. K. CLAPP.

In addition to the course of study heretofore pursued in this Institution, there will be a Teachers' Class formed at the commencement of the school, and particular attention given in that department to those intending to go out as teachers.

REFERENCE.

Hon. Whitney Jones,	Judge Chapman,
J. C. Bailey & Co.,	A. J. Cutler, Esq.,
C. T. Berkley & Co.,	S. W. Wright,
S. R. Greene,	E. R. Merrill,

Michigan Female college, as it appeared when the building was first used in 1856. The same building, standing on the original site, at the west end of West Grand River avenue, where North Pine street intersects, forms the nucleus of the structure now housing the Michigan School for the Blind. The advertisements for this school, managed by Miss Abigail C. Rogers, and for a rival school, are seen below as they appeared in the old State Republican



Forty-eight years after Miss Rogers moved her Female college to the new building, the property looked like this, in 1904, with another wing built on for use by the Michigan School for the Blind. From November 8, 1871, to August 5, 1881, the building had been used as an "Odd Fellows Institute"

The inference now is that he didn't care to involve himself, or his newspaper, in the social maelstrom which must have been churning the little town, with two women locked, albeit, figuratively, in mortal combat.

In the meantime, the building for Miss Rogers was nearing realization. Interest was being attracted from other centers. Large gifts of money came from Zachariah Chandler, wealthy Detroit mercantile merchant, later United States senator, and from Capt. Eber B. Ward, successful trader of that city. The excavations for the building were made in the summer of 1857.

Building Operations

The erection of the building was largely a community affair, everyone, or practically everyone in the north end, helping out with the school which would enhance that part of the town. Men who were unable to contribute money or land were on hand to loan their strong backs, muscles and teams.

Two wings, in addition to the central unit, were projected for the first building, which was of four story brick, but the school opened and was conducted without the south wing, which was added, years later, by others occupying the building.

With the opening of the school in its new quarters, the prestige of Miss Rogers increased greatly. Prominent families from all parts of the state began sending their daughters, for while there were many seminaries in this section of Michigan, Miss Rogers' school appears to have occupied a pre-eminent position among them. Boarding as well as merely "day" students were then taken and all the characteristics of "college life" were available here, under the kindly and watchful eye of the excellently endowed Miss Rogers and her sister, Delia.

However, to get back to the fate of Miss H. K. Clapp, the intransigent and strayed faculty member who started in business for herself. While Miss Rogers had her school in the Ohio house, Miss Clapp was beating her way along, too. If "the first quarter of the second year" did find the school in the state house, it didn't stay there long, for The State Republican notes the presence of the school in the old Union school building, which was directly north of the present site of the board of education offices today, northwest corner of Townsend and West Washtenaw streets.

The Union school at that time, according to the story, had 200 students of which 70 were "in the higher branches of learning." Important is the fact that Miss H. K. Clapp was its

principal. Speaking of the "Union school project of the District No. 4," the story in the edition for October 6, 1857, said further:

"We must not forget to mention the Female college, located in the same building, and under the general supervision of the same principal." Reference was made to the Union school of District No. 4, and its co-worker, the Female college."

It is known that in later years, Miss Clapp had a school in the old Post house, one time hotel near Townsend and West Hillsdale streets. A map of Lansing in 1859 which was brought to The State Journal offices by Miss Mary E. Buck, shows that Miss Clapp, that year at least, had her school located on the west side of South Washington avenue, near Lenawee street.

Just how long her school was maintained is not known. The secret is undoubtedly contained in the files of The State Republican, and would be revealed if every issue for years were combed. Sufficient to say that these pages have yielded enough evidence to cast an entirely new light on the whole discussion of the "Michigan Female college." No one would dispute that Miss Rogers' school was the more popular; that her fame was far the greater, however.

In 1858, when Miss Rogers' college was moved to its own building, and it was well established, more extensive advertising for it appeared in the old State Republican, and this allowed for a better idea of the institution to reward the present day investigator. A catalog was issued in the fall of that year, and from it the newspaper quoted some information in its issue for August 17. An excerpt follows:

"The entire expense of board, including fuel, lights, etc., for the College year of forty weeks is \$130
Tuition in the college department, per term is \$ 18
The only extra charge will be 20 cents per dozen for washing."

Possibly the great demand for state money during the dark days of the Civil war had something to do with the absence of state aid for a cause notably worthy. The proposition was made by which the state would take over the school and operate it as a state institution. Several sessions of the legislature were petitioned without avail. The Rogers sisters carried on as well as they could, after their several years of great success. But money tightness among even fairly well-to-do people might have had something to do with the pall in the fortunes of the college.

The final blow came in 1869 when Abigail, the older



Educational cradle of many of the older citizens of Lansing today, this old Union school is remembered with considerable affection. It stood on the northwest corner of Townsend and West Washtenaw streets, where the Townsend street school was later located, in a building now used for the board of education offices. It was the first brick school house in this city

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES, CLASS OF '84.

PROGRAM.

MUSIC.

PRAYER.

ESSAY—Voyaging,	MUSIC—Quartette.	JENNIE B. GREENE
ESSAY—Straws,		ADAH L. ABER
ORATION—The Power of Knowledge,		JOHN J. BUSH, JR.
	MUSIC—Vocal Solo.	
ESSAY—Hammers and Anvils,		CHARLOTTE A. EARLE
ORATION—The Modern Neglect of Oratory,		INEZ E. SMITH
	MUSIC—Violin Solo.	
PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS.		
ADDRESS TO THE CLASS,	PROF. JOSEPH ESTABROOK, Olivet	
	MUSIC—Vocal Solo.	
	BENEDICTION.	

ALUMNI.

CLASS OF '73.
Ada L. Thompson.
Mrs. Ella F. Shank.
Mrs. Alice A. Crosby.

CLASS OF '74.
Clarence E. Bement.
Emma L. Jenne.
Jason E. Nichols.
Mrs. Minnie Hartness.
Burton Harris.
Mary H. Shine.*

CLASS OF '75.
Mrs. Florence Judd.
Kate B. Mack.

CLASS OF '76.
M. Alice Frary.
Ella Stedman.
Bettie M. Sutliff.
Mrs. Lou Parmelee.
Mrs. Fanny J. Nichols.

CLASS OF '77.
Mary E. Sheridan.
Theron North.

CLASS OF '79.
Mrs. Belle Breck.
Esther C. Stedman.
May Wolcott.
Franc J. Dart.
Hattie S. Haze.
Edith V. Budington.

CLASS OF '80.
Carrie M. Osborn.
Lucia D. Cowles.
Mrs. Ida M. Watson.
Millie Bingham.

CLASS OF '81.
Corinna B. Gleason.
Eliza B. Hinman.
Lewis F. Esselstyn.
Kate Marvin.

Joie Smith.
Carrie O. Lott.*

CLASS OF '82.
Charles E. Everett.
Mrs. Lina L. Broas.
Mrs. Jennie E. Prudden.
Etta DeLamarter.
Maud E. Cannell.
Carrie M. French.
Mrs. Emma F. Chittenden.
Neela J. Root.
Julia R. Everett.

CLASS OF '83.
Jessie F. Ward.
Cassie E. McClure.
Ida M. Robins.
Orah L. Glaister.
Carrie M. Berridge.
Nellie E. Osband.

* Deceased

Reproductions of two cards printed for the 11th annual commencement exercises for Lansing's Central High school, are here shown, carrying names well known in Lansing then and now, as indicated on the page facing this one

Of the five members of Central High school's class of 1884, all but one, Jennie B. Greene, were living, late in 1929. It was fateful that the first to die should read an essay titled "Voyaging," shown on the program at top, on the opposite page. Of those of the list of alumni, shown below, Mrs. Alice A. Crosby, formerly Alice Ballard, survives from the class of '73, and lives in Boston, according to Jason E. Nichols, himself a member of the class of '74, as shown. Mrs. Ella F. Shank, '73, was the wife of Dr. Rush J. Shank, Lansing physician two generations ago.

Four of the six members of the class of '74 survive today. They are: Clarence E. Bement, president of the Novo Engine Works, Emma L. Jenne, Mr. Nichols, Lansing attorney, and Mrs. Minnie Hartness. Burton Harris was later a Lansing doctor, since dead. One member of the class of 1875 survives, Kate B. Mack, living in Lansing. The next class, that of 1876, has lost but one member, Mrs. Lou Parmelee. Ella Stedman lives in California, Bettie M. Suttliff, in Michigan, and Mrs. Fanny J. Nichols is the wife of Jason E. Nichols.

There were no graduates in 1878. Anyone familiar with the names already mentioned, will recognize nearly every name in the whole list of alumni. Those which stand out include Mrs. Lina L. Broas, Mrs. Jennie E. Prudden, Maud E. Cannell, Orah L. Glaister, and others easily identified in Lansing's history.



sister, died. Delia was not equal to the task of running the school single-handed, and she was terribly disheartened. The college closed its doors shortly after. She herself died in Lansing at the home of her niece, Mrs. S. L. Smith, in 1886.

The memories of the school and of the Rogers sisters will live long in the histories of Lansing and this part of the state, for the importance of the project should become increasingly significant, rather than otherwise. With the passage of time, women, in the near equality of participation with men in the affairs of the world, should be more grateful to the woman who first visioned this evolution, in the years when men merely shrugged their shoulders, leaving the task in the hands of the pioneer in women's education—Miss Abigail Rogers.

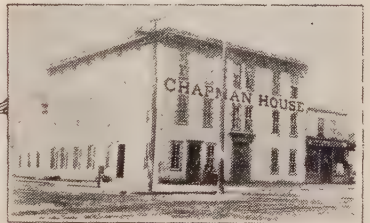
FROM MUD TO MODERNITY

PIONEER HOTELS

LANSING'S first hotel, in any sense of the word, was erected originally as a house, in 1843, by John W. Burchard. It was he who built the first log house within the city limits of Lansing, as now defined. Its location has been fixed as being slightly northwest of the present northwest corner of Center and Wall streets, in north Lansing.

Following Burchard's death, and the re-purchase of the property by James Seymour, at the administrator's sale, the site was leased to Joab Page, Whitney Smith and George Pease.

George N. Fuller's history, discussing the arrival of the three capitol commissioners at "Michigan," May 20, 1847, to select a site for the capitol, says: "The principal building (the others being one or two houses and a saw mill), was the enlarged residence of the late John W. Burchard who had built the dam. It was occupied by Joab Page, his son, Isaac C. Page, and his son-in-law, Whitney Smith, George D. Pease and Alvin Rolfe." This would certainly indicate a continuity of living in the original house, with enlargements made necessary for the accommodation of these men, and very likely, their wives. Nothing is said in his history about a hotel, but Albert E. Cowles' history, discussing early hotels and referring to the place the Seymour house held, said "the Grand River house, quite a respectable building for those times, had already been built by Messrs. Page and Smith, at the northwest corner of Center and Wall streets."



A group of Lansing's early hotels, with the history of the city built into their walls, is here shown. Upper left shows the building of the Downey hotel which was erected shortly after the Civil war by Gen. Lafayette C. Baker. It was then known as the Lansing house, the third with that name. The view below shows the completed structure, with four stories, its limit until 1910, when two more were added. Directly east across South Washington avenue, once stood the second Lansing house, shown below, on the site of the first one. Erected in 1848, it burned down in 1861. At the top is the old Octagon hotel erected by Col. Whitney Jones in 1860, as a residence. It was on the present site of the F. N. Arbaugh store. Today this building stands at the rear of the store, with its eight sides intact. Below is the old Benton house, later the Everett house, on the present site of R. E. Olds' residence, northwest corner of South Washington avenue and West Main street. Erected in 1848 the building was pulled down in 1902. The Chapman house, which, at the turn of this century was on the present site of the VanDervoort hardware store, is shown at lower right



It was Cowles who located both Burchard's house and the Grand River house; it was Fuller's observations which lead to the belief that these buildings were one and the same. Their locations are within a few rods of each other; it is entirely possible that in addition to enlarging the original Burchard house, they might have moved it slightly to bring it out to face on a street, instead of languishing in the middle of a village "block." The house of logs, which is believed to be the "Grand River house" was 20 feet wide, 40 feet long, and 2 stories high. Little of the subsequent history of the "Grand River house" is known.

The Seymour House

As to the first hotel erected for the avowed and commercial intention of accommodating transients, the claim would seem to go, logically, to the Seymour house, erected in 1847 on the southwest corner of Center and Franklin streets, or Center and East Grand River avenue today. This would place it just one block north of the "Grand River house," and on the same side of the street. The first Lansing house was also built in 1847.

Besides the Grand River house, the Seymour house and the Lansing house, there were other pioneer hotels whose known history is covered almost by the mere mention of their names. The Michigan house, built in 1847, on the northwest corner of East Main and River streets, by John Thomas, was operated by him for some years. It was virtually on the banks of Grand river. There was the Ohio house, directly in rear of the present Downey hotel, which would locate it on the south side of West Washtenaw street, perhaps 300 feet west of South Washington avenue. Then in the extreme south end, east of Grand river, was Clapsaddle's hotel, named after its builder, erected on the east side of South Cedar street, at the corner of East Main street. This was also known as the National hotel. It was directly across the river from the Michigan house, mentioned just previously. Clapsaddle's hotel burned in later years.

The Seymour house, with alterations, survives today as Franklin Terrace. It was known, for a time after 1891, as the Franklin house. This was a two and a half story frame building, extending on Center street, about half way to Wall street, to the south. The front, and short side, faced on Franklin street. In later years, the place was owned by E. S. Porter, who remodeled it into 16 apartments.

The Seymour house was erected by two men, father and

son. Oliver Bush was the original contractor for the building. He died "on the job," October 20, 1847, however, and the work was carried on by his son, John N. Bush, who came to Lansing in September of that year, and secured the contract. The son enjoyed a long career as a building contractor in Lansing, later erecting the Packard house, finishing this in March, 1848. The Lansing house was also one of John N. Bush's works.

The owners of the first Lansing house were two brothers, Mathew P. and Jeremiah Marvin. Mathew P. Marvin, by the way, was the father-in-law of Dr. Frank Stewart Kedzie, present historian of Michigan State college. The most valuable contribution to the intimate history of this old hotel comes from the files of *The State Republican*, as is the case with so many phases of Lansing's history. In this case, the history is contained in a brief story from the very first issue of the old parent paper, and as the pages of this edition were published in the Anniversary edition, many have already read it.

The first Lansing house, built in 1847, was of logs. It was on the southeast corner of South Washington avenue and East Washtenaw street, or directly east across the street from the present Downey hotel.

The log hotel was moved "back," or east, in 1848, and the second Lansing house, a large three-story frame structure, was built on the original site.

The original owners leased the place to Henry Jipson, who eventually bought the property, evidence would indicate. Certain it is that he was its manager for the first eight years of its existence, and in 1855, he was its owner. In April, of that year, according to the April, 28, 1855, number of *The State Republican*, Mr. Jipson sold the hotel to Nelson J. Alport, who had just recently been managing the Seymour house. Mr. Alport had, before this, been proprietor of the Clinton house, one of the first hotels at DeWitt.

In the desire to deal with the earliest of Lansing's hotels, in the order of their beginnings, it has been necessary to leave, until now, discussion of what, without any serious contention to the contrary, was certainly the most famed and best remembered of the pioneer hotels of this city—the Benton house, which was opened slightly later than any of the hotels heretofore mentioned.

The Benton House

This hotel, Lansing's first brick building, was located on the northwest corner of South Washington avenue and West

Main street, where R. E. Olds' residence stands today. It was started in 1847 and completed the year following, under the direction of Charles P. Bush, John Thomas and George W. Lee, south side merchants prominent in the settlement. It was a four-story building with a sort of attic above this, and its reputation was shortly well established as a genuinely first class hotel. It acted as a lodestone to prominent state officials, as did its rival, the Seymour house, at the other end of the city.

The man for whom the Benton house was named by its loyal democratic builders, was Thomas Hart Benton, statesman, who, born at Hillsborough, N. C., in 1782, died at Washington, in 1858.

Charles T. Bush, one of the owners, was its first manager, but he shortly gave the reins to his son-in-law, William Hinman, and some of the finest memories of the old Benton house are associated with this man's name. A son, William C. Hinman, lives at 119 East Main street today.

In November, 1858, Mr. Hinman retired from management of the hotel, and his place was taken by E. W. Peck of Detroit. This is shown in the November 13, 1855, edition of *The State Republican*.

It was shortly after this that Bush, Thomas and Lee demonstrated to the village of Lansing that they were aggressive business men. The story of how they donated a strip of their land for the southern extension of South Washington avenue, and assisted in building the first bridge over Grand river at this point, so as to tap the Jackson and Eaton Rapids stage coach line for trade, is told in the history of bridges of this city, in the Anniversary edition.

Peck continued as manager of the Benton house for about two years, and that he maintained its prestige as a social center, is evidenced from the flowery notices of its parties and dances, which appeared from time to time in *The State Republican*.

But the hotel seems to have closed, for a short time at least, in the last months of 1857, for a *State Republican* advertisement in the issue for December 22 pointed out that the hotel had been "re-opened" on December 21, by Dr. J. W. Holmes.

In June, 1861, Martin Hudson, long connected with Lansing hotels, became the manager of the Benton house. He stayed in this position for only two years, despite the general impression among Lansing pioneers that Hudson was at the Benton house for a much longer period. Again, the files of *The State Republican* bear witness to this, for in the issue of April

29, 1863, there was a notice that Martin Hudson had newly become the proprietor of the American house (formerly the Eagle hotel) "directly opposite the capitol." This was at 215 South Washington avenue, at about where the Strand theater now stands.

In May, 1867, however, Martin Hudson became manager of the third hotel to bear the name "Lansing," the present Downey hotel, and he stayed in this capacity for the next eight years. The withdrawal of Hudson from the Benton house seems to have marked the beginning of the end of the prominence of this old place. The business life of Lansing was beginning to draw away from the south end; when the then magnificent Lansing house was opened in 1867, the Benton house was forced, shortly, to close its doors.

The property was acquired in about 1868, by Dr. C. C. Olds, who used it for a boys' academy, according to the recollections of J. P. Edmonds, who further states that two years later, it was purchased by Cyrus B. Paddock, who changed the name to the "Everett house," when it was again opened as a hotel. Revival of its old position as a leader was impossible, however, and degeneration into a boarding house followed. The late Judge Edward Cahill eventually acquired it, and sold it to R. E. Olds, who had the building removed in 1902 to make way for his present residence which was built in the year following.

Second Lansing House

To go back, however, to pick up the threads of hotel history from the year 1848, when the three-story frame hotel, the second Lansing house, was erected, we find that this corner in a few years had become one of considerable activity for stage coach traffic between Lansing and Jackson, as the Seymour house in the north end, or "lower town," was for Lansing-Detroit traffic. The post office was two doors south of the Lansing house.

James M. Shearer was manager of the Lansing house shortly after Nelson J. Alport bought it, and he so continued, eventually becoming its proprietor, or at least the lessee. The State Republican records his going in the issue for June 23, 1857. He was succeeded by "Messrs. B. & H. Baker."

Shearer, first steward of the State Agricultural college, tried, at first, to run his hotel and hold his job at the school at the same time, Dr. Kedzie, college historian relates, but after trying it from May 13, when the college opened, until the middle of June, he found he had to relinquish one of his

places. The Bakers, on the other hand, turned their lease over to Martin Hudson in 1859, when he began management of his first hotel in this city.

It was also in 1857 that Lansing acquired its famous "Octagon hotel," memories of which have survived to a relatively modern period. Thomas Treat was its first proprietor. The structure still stands, fairly well preserved, in the rear of the F. N. Arbaugh company store. The hotel was built on the present site of the store, southeast corner of South Washington avenue and East Kalamazoo street, to be displaced by the department store. Col. Whitney Jones, one time postmaster in Lansing, and prominent real estate operator here in the pre-Civil war period, originally erected the place as a residence for himself, having a flair for the unusual. The State Republican for May 12, 1857, published a paragraph about a dancing party scheduled in the hotel for that evening. As usual, the affair was referred to as "toe tripping."

The end of the second Lansing house came at 11:30 o'clock on the night of Sunday, June 2, 1861, and the files of The State Republican contain in full the story of the devastating fire which razed the historic old hotel. For five years, there was no hotel of that name in Lansing. Martin Hudson managed the Benton house for the next two years, when he left to take charge of the Eagle house, as indicated previously. Inasmuch as the Eagle house had been converted from the Columbus house, and in view of the fact this was one of the very early hotels in this city, consideration thus turns naturally to the hotels which have been on this site, 215 South Washington avenue, for many years in the past.

The Columbus house, a three-story frame building, was erected in 1847 and 1848, by Christopher Columbus Darling, who came early to Lansing from Eaton Rapids in 1843 to help John W. Burchard build his dam at what is now north Lansing. He also helped in the construction of a second dam at this point, for James Seymour. Thus Darling was one of the earliest men to come to Lansing, five years before the city had even acquired that name.

Because of his prominent place in Lansing activities, the name of C. C. Darling was well known for reasons other than his hotel to which he gave his second name. One of his close associates was Myron Green, who died in Lansing, only seven or eight years ago, at an advanced age.

The connection of the Columbus and the Eagle and the Hudson house, named for Martin Hudson, has already been indicated; the latter hotel was built on the same site as its

predecessors, in 1875, when Hudson reached his peak in the hotel business.

The Downey

Before this development, however, the third Lansing house, a four-story brick, was erected on the site of the present Downey hotel, in 1866, to replace the structure which had burned down in 1861, leaving the city with only one good hotel, the Benton house. The first two Lansing hotels were directly east across the street from the third, which was erected partly by community subscription, but largely by Gen. Lafayette C. Baker, who used his reward money granted him for the capture of John Wilkes Booth, slayer of Pres. Abraham Lincoln, as detailed in full in a separate story in the Anniversary edition. The hotel was ready for occupancy in May, 1867, and Martin Hudson was its first host. It was in 1875 that Hudson sold his interest to N. G. Isabella, and built his own hotel, the Hudson house.

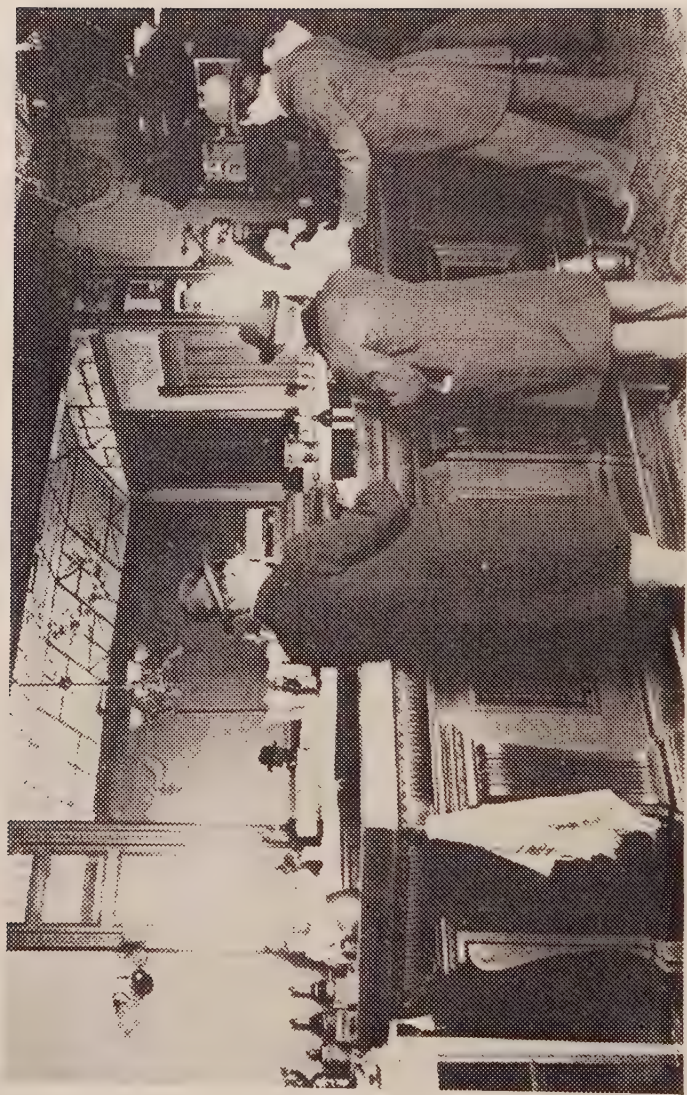
The Lansing house was later managed by T. J. Lyon who sold out in 1882, to Jacob Aberle of Owosso. Henry J. Downey purchased the property in 1887, greatly enlarging and improving it. The hotel was damaged by fire in 1876, and again in 1912, but each time the damage was repaired and the hotel made better than ever before. In 1910 two more stories were added to give the hotel its present dimensions. The entire building, inside and out, was rebuilt, save for the walls themselves, after the fire in 1912.

Prominent in the minds of oldsters today, however, is that the old Hudson house, for years political headquarters, was made famous by the residence of Gov. Hazen S. Pingree, during his term in office from 1897 to 1901. Great was the concern and excitement when Governor Pingree, a physical giant, had an oversized bath tub installed in his living quarters of the Hudson house.

Another chapter was added to the long history of early Lansing hotels a generation ago, in the once well known Eichele house, conducted for 18 years, starting in 1873, by Jacob Eichele, at 206 North Washington avenue. In May, 1891, the lease passed to William F. Graessle, son-in-law of Mr. Eichele, who, with his wife, Anna M., as assistant manager, continued the business for six years, when John Herrmann bought the place, together with the two stores on either side of it, in the buildings originally erected by Mr. Eichele. The hotel went out of business in 1904. The sons of Mr. Herrmann now conduct their father's tailoring business at 218



*The old Hudson house, east side of Washington avenue, south of Allegan street, is here seen, at center, the three story building with all the sun shades let down. The old hotel, erected about 1875, was the successor of the Columbus hotel, on this site, now occupied by the Strand theater. Gov. Hazen S. Pin-
gree made the Hudson hotel his headquarters in the late '90's. It burned down about 10 years ago*



The old bar of the Dorney hotel, a picture taken before state prohibition went into effect in 1914. The main entrance to the bar was from the lobby, but there was another door opening on South Washington avenue

North Washington avenue, in one of the buildings involved in the sale. Mr. Graessle died July 29, 1928. Mrs. Graessle lives at 216½ South Pine street.

There have been a score of other hotels in Lansing, not mentioned in this outline, some better known than others. One of them, at random, was the old Butler hotel on the southwest corner of South Washington avenue and West Kalamazoo street. The Butler Block pharmacy now occupies this corner, but 25 years ago, the hotel here was one of the leaders of the city.

While this sketch concerns itself primarily with the first hotels and the ones which closely followed them, mention of hotels best known in Lansing today will prove interesting records in the future. The Kerns hotel, 114 North Grand avenue, was originally the Wentworth when it was built, in the early 1900's, by Frank and Ellen Wentworth. In 1908 it was greatly increased in size after its lease to William George Kerns, son-in-law of the Wentworths. Mr. Kerns conducted the hotel in connection with the Kerns hotel which adjoins it and the two units are one, so far as the traveling public is concerned. Mr. Kerns retired from management in 1921. Mrs. Wentworth still leases her half of the joint hotel to the present management. The proprietor is Ernest S. Richardson, and the manager is Richard J. Murray, his son-in-law.

The Roosevelt hotel, 220 Seymour avenue, was opened late in 1923. It is owned by Frank Davey, Detroit, but its manager, well known in Lansing, is Charles T. Quinn.

The Hotel Olds, 14-story brick and stone structure, Lansing's newest, was opened July 14, 1926. It is located on the southeast corner of West Michigan and South Capitol avenues. It was built by the Lansing Community Hotel corporation. Its manager is George L. Crocker.

HOW THE DOWNEY HOTEL WAS FINANCED

THE present Downey hotel was originally built with money given as a reward for the capture of the assassin of President Lincoln. The story is sufficiently interesting and engaging today, to be explained in more detail.

Luther Byron Baker, son of Luther Alexander and Mary (Stannard) Baker, was born at Stafford, Genesee county, New York, February 20, 1830. When the Civil war broke out, Luther Byron, later Lieutenant Baker, and his brother, Joseph Stannard Baker, later Major Baker, were called from the book

and stationery business in Iowa, to Washington, by a cousin, Gen. Lafayette C. Baker, chief of the United States secret service. The brothers received appointments in this service, which they discharged with distinction. Both brothers were mustered out of service, immediately after Lee's surrender on April 9, 1865. Four days later, however, on the evening of Good Friday, April 14, President Lincoln was shot in Ford's theater, Washington, by Booth. Edwin M. Stanton, secretary of war, detailed General Baker to organize a detachment for the capture of Booth. General Baker recalled his cousin, Lieutenant Baker, (younger brother of Major J. Stannard Baker) to head 25 cavalymen, who cornered Booth, two weeks later, in the Garret barn, near Port Royal, Va.

General Baker, head of the secret service, received \$20,000 of the reward money offered for the capture of Booth; Lieutenant Baker received \$5,000. These sums were decided upon by a congressional committee which dealt with the several claims for the money.

General Baker came to Lansing, and was followed by his cousins, Lieut. Luther Byron Baker and Major Joseph Stannard Baker. General Baker organized a company for the erection of a first class hotel near the capitol, and put his reward money into the project. The hotel, named the Lansing hotel, was erected in 1866, on the site of the present Downey, southwest corner of South Washington avenue and West Washtenaw street.

Major J. Stannard Baker went into the iron manufacturing business with another cousin, M. S. Baker, who, according to J. P. Edmonds, had his foundry one block west of the hotel, southwest corner of West Washtenaw street and South Capitol avenue. The iron for the hotel came from this foundry. Thus it is that the name "M. S. Baker" is cast into every window sill, cap and column in the building today.

Major Baker married Alice Potter, in 1868, and the one of their six sons who is best known to Lansingites is Ray Stannard Baker, author, editor and biographer, of New York city. Major Baker, who married again after the death of his first wife, settled in St. Croix, Wis., where he subsequently died.

Lieutenant Baker married Helen M. Davis, in Lansing in 1868. Four children were born, two girls and two boys. Arthur D., president of the Michigan Millers Mutual Fire Insurance company, and Luther H., secretary and treasurer of the same organization, are the sons. Lucelia, one of the daughters, is the wife of Wilbur O. Hedrick, professor of economics at Michi-



Lieut. Luther Byron Baker, astride his famed steed "Buckskin," which he rode when he captured John Wilkes Booth, slayer of Lincoln. Posed in front of the main entrance to the capitol, the military man and his horse recall a familiar sight in Lansing. For years, Lieutenant Baker rode at the head of parades here. He was the father of Arthur D. and Luther H. Baker, prominent Lansing business men



GRAND RIVER LINE OF
STEAMERS
 Good for Single Trip One Way, Between
 North Lansing and Mineral Well,
 OR INTERMEDIATE POINTS
 Capt. A. P. LOOMIS, - - Manager.

Between the Mineral Well hotel (upper left), and north Lansing, a line of small steamers used to ply in the 1870's.
 The hotel site was at about 900 River street. Two boat landings and one of the boat tickets are shown here.

gan State college, while Helen, twin of Lucelia, died some years ago.

Lieutenant Baker died in Lansing, May 24, 1896; his wife on April 25, 1918.

THE MINERAL WELL HOTEL

LANSING'S first important hotel—so important that a railroad was constructed to its door and a station was on its grounds—was burned down almost 54 years ago, on a site which today would be regarded as the most unpromising one in the city for such an enterprise. Near the point where the Red Cedar and Grand rivers flow together, in the southeast quarter of Lansing, just south and east of the confluence of the streams, stood the famed Mineral Well hotel, terminus of a line of Grand river steamers which carried patrons by water to the resort. The Jarvis Engineering works now stands on the site, a mile south of the nearest hotel, and on the "wrong" side of the river.

Oddly enough, the offer in 1867, by the state of a bounty of 75 cents for every barrel of salt manufactured in Michigan, furnished the impetus which resulted, three years later, in the building of this hotel. In Lansing, a firm of "Woodhouse and Butler" quickly organized to drill for brine from which to secure salt, the manufacture of which the state wished to encourage. They found no brine, but did find

mineral water, analysis of which, months later, proved it high in medicinal properties. The well was some 100 feet south of the south end of the present River street bridge, slightly west of River street. The top of the pipe can be seen protruding from the ground today.

Navigation.

GRAND RIVER Line of Steamers



(SEA-BIRD & MINNIE CASS)

Ply the Grand River Daily,

Between North Lansing, the Mineral Well, and Benton bridge, landing at any point.

STEAMBOAT LANDING at Michigan Avenue bridge, only a short walk from the depots.

BOATS MEET every 30 minutes at that point.

We are now prepared to furnish private parties and Sabbath School pic-nics with

Excursions on Grand River

Between North Lansing and Mineral Well, and Peninsular Railway Grove, on short notice.

Capt. A. P. LOOMIS, Manager.

Lansing, May 21, 1873.

After this water had flowed at the rate of 1,600 gallons an hour, out of a five-inch casing for some weeks, people began hearing rumors of its curative qualities, and processions were formed by people with bottles, casks, jugs and barrels, who lugged this water away, free. This couldn't last forever, of course, and analysis was made. Saratoga, Hot Springs, Va., and Mt. Clemens water was found not to excel it for powers of restoration. The "boom" was on; the hotel was built in 1870.

The patronage was from the well-to-do people of this and other sections of the state; the old Lake Shore and Michigan Southern railroad considered the passenger traffic so promising that a station was erected on the grounds, served by the line as it entered Lansing from the south. The rails were laid the same year the hotel was built.

The small steamers which made the hotel one of their ports of call, were the "Sea Bird," "Minnie Cass" and the "Pickwick." These boats docked at a landing place at the foot of the hotel property. Evening "cruises" on these small boats were part of a summer's relaxation for old time Lansingites.

The Mineral Well hotel caught fire and burned to the ground, on February 5, 1876, after it was just emerging from a precarious financial situation caused by money tightness following the Civil war. The famed hotel was never rebuilt.

LANSING'S EIGHT POST OFFICES

LANSING'S post office has been located on eight different sites during the past 83 years, from the establishment of the first one, to the present day.

Lansing's first post office was where south Lansing is now, in a general store on South Cedar street, which was the stage coach road between here and Jackson. It was Lansing's first general store, too. The store and post office in the same building were started at the same time, in 1847, the year it was decided to move the capital from Detroit to this settlement in Lansing township. There was no town, properly speaking, at that time, of course. The store, owned by Bush and John Thomas, was, according to Albert E. Cowles, on the east side of South Cedar street, slightly south of East Main street. In those days, "lower town," or north Lansing, was the larger community, but "upper town," or south Lansing, was starting

to develop promisingly. "Middle town," or the business section of Lansing today, was non-existent.

Pres. James K. Polk appointed George W. Peck, prominent local democrat, the first postmaster, in 1847. Peck was later editor of The Lansing Journal, contemporary of The State Republican for years. He went to congress until defeated by DeWitt Clinton Leach, editor of the republican newspaper, in 1855.

Lansing's mail was deposited in pine boxes built into one of the walls of the store. "Uncle" Henry Gibbs, carpenter, constructed the boxes, which fitted a space measuring three feet by four feet. This was 22 years before Lansing finally became a city, with a population of slightly more than 3,000.

Postmasters, in the old day, didn't have much to do with mail, regardless of their title. A deputy postmaster was generally appointed for the actual work of administering the office. Mr. Peck appointed William Hinman as his deputy. Hinman also was a clerk in the Bush and Thomas store, and later proprietor of the Benton house.

Col. Whitney Jones succeeded Mr. Peck as postmaster, in 1851, and shortly after this, the post office was moved up to near the state capitol, which had attracted growth in "middle town" by this time. The office was then moved to the Carter block, on the northeast corner of South Washington avenue and East Washtenaw street. A small frame building on the site of the present Prudden building was next chosen, but in 1853, according to a history of post offices given by James P. Edmonds recently, this building burned down and this caused the moving of the post office to its third location, South Washington avenue, two doors south of the second Lansing house, or nearly opposite the present Downey hotel. Two years later, in 1855, it was moved again, to about 119 North Washington avenue, where Sprowl's store stands today; later to East Michigan avenue, just east of Washington avenue, on the north side of the street. "Longyear's" bank was on the adjoining corner, at that time.

Colonel Jones was a real estate operator, besides being the town postmaster. His interest in the spectacular and bizarre led to his constructing an eight-sided residence, in 1857. This home stood on the southeast corner of South Washington avenue and East Kalamazoo street, where the F. N Arbaugh store stands at present. When this store was built, the brick building was moved to the rear of the lot, where it stands today. In its later years it was the "Octagon hotel."

Van S. Murphy succeeded Colonel Jones as postmaster,

in the middle fifties, and in 1857, J. M. Griswold, one of the publishers of *The Lansing Journal*, gained the office. These men were democrats; so were the national administrations during their times.

Republican Postmasters

With the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln, in 1861, came Lansing's first republican postmaster, A. R. Burr. One year later, on the resignation of Mr. Burr, Ephraim Longyear came to the office which he held for five years, until 1867. Colonel Jones was re-appointed postmaster at this time.

In May, 1871, Stephen D. Bingham was appointed postmaster and the office was twice moved during his administration. In 1871, it was moved to South Washington avenue, just south of Michigan avenue, not far from its immediately previous location; but in 1879, it was moved north again, to occupy the entire first floor of what is now known as the Dodge block, northeast corner of North Washington avenue and East Ottawa street. The space in this building, built by Turner and Moody, was leased by the federal government, from James M. Turner. Mr. Bingham secured, through his influential connections in Washington, equipment for Lansing's post office which made it more efficient than it had ever been before. He is reputed to have spent a large sum of his own money, in addition to the government appropriation, for the benefit of the post office. He served as postmaster for 14 years, or until 1885. Grover Cleveland was inaugurated in that year, and a democrat succeeded to office.

Plans for moving the post office to its present location, northeast corner of West Michigan and North Capitol avenues, were slightly delayed, after congress had appropriated \$100,000 for a site and building. This delay came through the unreasonably high price which the owner of the proposed and present site set on his land. He was not a Lansing resident. The act providing the money was signed by Pres. Benjamin Harrison, on March 19, 1890; condemnation proceedings were successful, and the government paid \$17,666,66 for it, on October 29, 1890.

Construction on the building was halted after a time, when citizens were disappointed in the design. Schuyler S. Olds, private secretary to United States Senator Francis B. Stockbridge, of Michigan, was largely responsible for the granting of an additional appropriation of \$25,000, approved August 5, 1892, when the present two story building was pro-



Here is a picture of Amos N. Turner's grocery store as it looked many years ago, at about 115 East Michigan avenue, or just east of Washington avenue. Beside it was a paint and wall paper store run by Joe LaRose. Grocers used to hang their baskets of fruit on the sidewalk racks shown in this picture



Lansing's postal force in 1893, from an original photograph now in possession of Col. Walter G. Rogers, postmaster

When Lansing had a population of some 15,000 and when the post office was in the Dodge block, this picture was taken, as the force stood on the steps of the side entrance, on East Ottawa street. In the group shown here is Miss Flannie M. Blair, 704 Baker street, money order cashier, still on duty after 37 consecutive years of service. She had joined the post office force shortly before this picture was taken. She stands on the steps, at the right side of the doorway. Not all the other faces in this picture have been identified. The man with the derby, top row, is Will Hornberger; next is Mrs. Lena Meyers, now living in Lansing; Miss Blair, with Will Osborne, now dead, at right. The first man in the lower row, starting at the left, is Allen Shattuck, now dead. Mike O'Donnell, dead, stands next to Shattuck; a carrier named Salls-paugh, known to have died in the meantime, is next (on step); Irvin Buck, who, until a few years ago, was a salesman for the Dudley Paper company, but who now lives in his home town, Stamford, N. Y., is next; George McNeil stands next; Leon ("Stiff") Tooker, later Dr. Tooker, and a brother of Orla Tooker, come next; Douglas Merrifield, now dead, brother of Robert, and a son of the well-known E. R. Merrifield, in Lansing's earliest days, is next; the man on the extreme right with the derby will have to go without a name, despite inspection by several Lansing residents acquainted with the postal force at that time.



A. H. Whitehead's feed and grain store once stood on the west side of North Grand avenue, facing on the corner of East Michigan. The Sturgis Drug company occupies this corner today. There were hitching racks on the side, and all the appearances of an agricultural town were in evidence

ceeded with. It was occupied April 1, 1894, when L. E. Rowley was postmaster.

To go back to the list of postmasters, however, H. D. Pugh was the democrat appointed by Grover Cleveland to succeed Stephen D. Bingham. Mr. Pugh served until 1889, when Benjamin Harrison was inaugurated. Harrison appointed Seymour Foster, today an active business man, to serve one term, from 1889 to 1893, when he resigned his office after the second inauguration of Cleveland. L. E. Rowley succeeded Mr. Foster, serving from 1893 to 1897, when William McKinley became president. Mr. Foster was appointed postmaster for the second time, in which office he served until 1915, or for 18 years. His total service is thus 22 years for the two terms, which gives him the record, by all odds.

After Mr. Foster resigned for the second time, Peter Gray was made postmaster by Pres. Woodrow Wilson, in 1915. Mr. Gray served until December 4, 1922, when Col. Walter G. Rogers, present postmaster, was appointed by Pres. Warren G. Harding.

The building which was occupied in 1894 was thought large enough for generations, but in 1913, the structure was partially rebuilt, and enlarged considerably. Today the building is not adequate to the future needs of the city, and efforts to have a new and larger building have been made in Washington for several years.

The post office has grown from a space of 12 square feet on a store wall, with one "clerk" in 1841, to its present size which requires a staff of 130 people. Measuring the growth financially, the comparison of postal receipts for Lansing's post office is interesting. For 1884, the total was \$25,883.61; by 1904 this had grown to \$75,570.18; in 1928, this had made the jump to \$711,946, and Colonel Rogers, in the latter part of December estimated that the receipts for 1929 would be about \$768,645. This is the history of Lansing's post office from 1847 to the present day.

LANSING BUILDS 40 BRIDGES

ANY city built up on the banks of a river which changes its direction twice within its city limits, with another stream flowing to join the main one, in the same area, is going to need bridges, in ample quantity. Lansing in such a setting, on both banks of the meandering Grand, and the lesser Red Cedar, has needed bridges since its incep-

tion. Lansing today has 15 bridges, including one grade separation which does not cross water. Of these 15 bridges, one is closed at present pending erection of a new one on the site. Including this new bridge to be put into service during 1930, Lansing will have had, in its entire history, a total of 40 bridges, including the grade separation. Inasmuch as there are 14 bridge sites now, this means that 26 bridges have disappeared, or are closed now, soon to be replaced by new ones.

The first settlement in what is now Lansing, was at the north end, yet the first bridge was at the south end. But there is a reason for nearly everything. The reason for this is that settlers came from the south, and to reach the north end, they had to cross the Red Cedar river. The trail they broke is named after the stream they had to cross, Cedar street, today.

First Log Bridges

Thus, a bridge of logs over the Red Cedar river, at the first "street" in the settlement, Cedar street, was the beginning of the long history of bridges in this city. The log crossing was built in 1841.

Bush, Thomas and Lee, south side merchants with the interests of the community at heart, built a bridge which crossed the Grand river at Main street in the spring of 1847. In those days, and for some years later, this section was a promising business district. When Main street was young there was justification for the name. Stores of the usual frontier kind, and even a hotel, were on Main street, mostly east of Grand river, of course. For a short time, then, the only bridges in the "town" were in "upper town," both of logs. The bridge built by Bush, Thomas and Lee extended to the trail which is now Cedar street, and thus allowed for direct access from the west to the road which led to Jackson and the south.

But later in the same year, James Seymour, business figure in "lower town," built the first bridge in that section, crossing Grand river at Franklin street, later Franklin avenue, and now East Grand River avenue. A flood in the spring of 1852 swept down the river and knocked out the log bridges in the south end, but Seymour's bridge withstood the pressure and survived the first of many floods in Lansing which were destined to play havoc with bridges.

The log bridge over the Cedar river, being vital to communication, was replaced in 1852, but the one over Grand river, at Main street, was not replaced until 1856. But other new bridges were being erected as the town grew in im-

portance. In 1848, the year after north Lansing got its fine bridge, the first bridge at Michigan avenue was erected. The capitol had been built the year before and the new bridge was a necessity to give ready access from the state buildings and "middle town" to Cedar street.

The first Michigan avenue bridge was of wood and its eastern approach was reared on a long trestle, or viaduct, because the land on the east side of Grand river was low and sloping. This trestle, built on piles, extended clear to Cedar street, where the land rose to the level of the bridge floor. Later, when Cedar street was graded, the land was used to fill in Michigan avenue and the wooden causeway was not necessary for subsequent bridges.

When the Main street bridge was replaced in 1856, by the township board of supervisors, after the flood of four years previous, the city had four serviceable bridges; one at Cedar street, one at Main street, one at Michigan avenue and James Seymour's bridge at Franklin street.

No formal history of the city records the loss of the Main street bridge, but the files of *The State Republican* do, twice. Floods in 1857 carried this bridge out, and again in 1860 the third crossing at this point was forced off its abutments. The discouragement of having three bridges at this point swept away seems to have been too much for the south side merchants, and the township board of supervisors, for there has never been a bridge at this place since March, 1860, when the third one "started on a voyage to Grand Haven," as the old newspaper put it.

Hotel Rivalry

But in the meantime, the absence of a bridge at the foot of Washington avenue, over Grand river, was offering a serious obstacle to the development of the village in that section. The first bridge at this point can really be traced to hotel rivalry, however, more than to any direct desire for expansion of the town down there. It came about in this manner. When the town of "Michigan" was first laid out by the commissioners who came here to prepare the way for the erection of the state capitol, Washington avenue ended at Main street.

On the northwest corner of this intersection stood the Benton house, famed early Lansing hostelry, built in 1847.

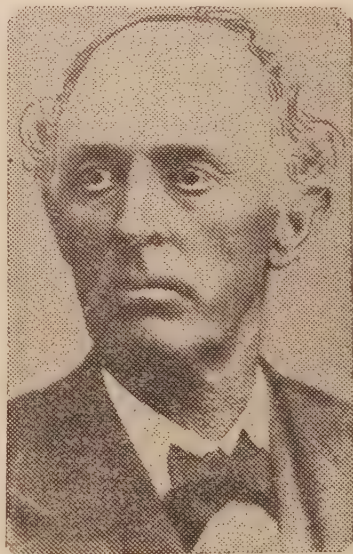
The firm of Charles P. Bush, John Thomas and George W. Lee, the merchants who built the original Main street bridge over Grand river, owned the Benton house. As the town grew, it became apparent that direct connection between

their hotel and the "Jackson stage coach" must be provided, if their patronage was to be maintained.

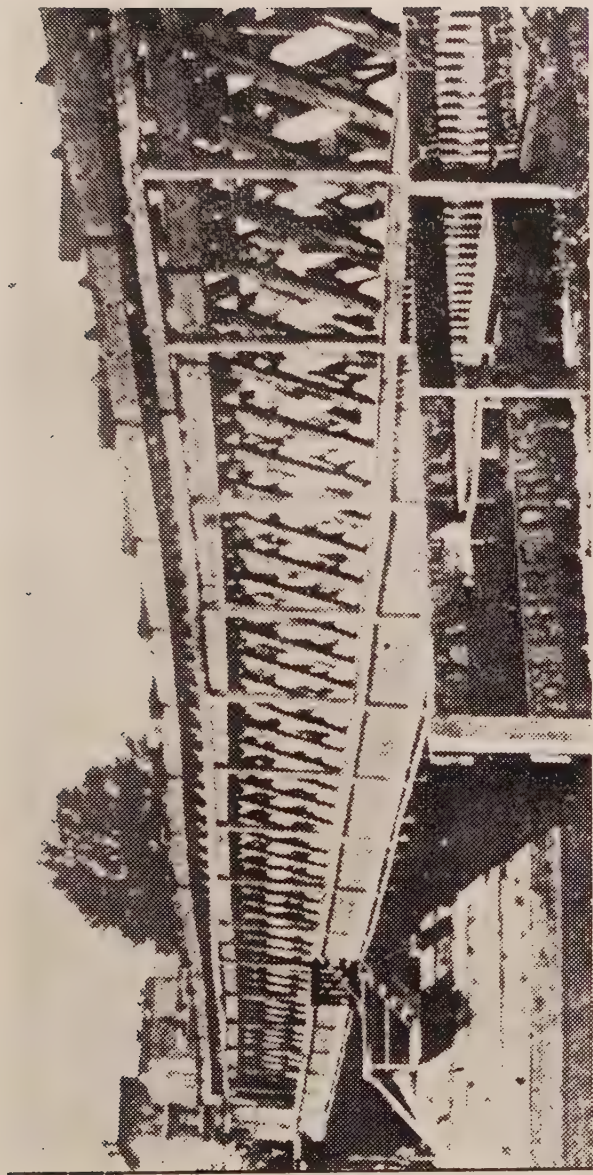
In those days, Lansing was served by two stage coach lines: One between here and Howell, and on to Detroit, over the plank road, the other between here and Jackson, via Eaton Rapids. The Howell road entered along Franklin street, or what is now East Grand River avenue. The Jackson and Eaton Rapids stage coaches came east along Mt. Hope avenue to Cedar street, then north to Franklin street, to cross the bridge and thus get to the west side of Grand river. Thus, both stage coach lines entered the village over the Franklin street bridge and both lines led directly past the door of the Seymour house, which was then getting much trade which the Benton house coveted.

Therefore, there had to be a bridge at South Washington, and the road pushed south to Mt. Hope avenue, making for a more direct route from Jackson to the state capitol, leading directly past the Benton house. In 1856, the firm decided to make the move; donated to the city a strip of land through their land between Main street and the river bank, and gave \$1,500 cash as an encouragement. William Hinman, for years manager of the hotel, gave \$200; the board of state auditors contributed \$1,500, and many citizens helped raise a fund sufficient to erect a wooden bridge over Grand river.

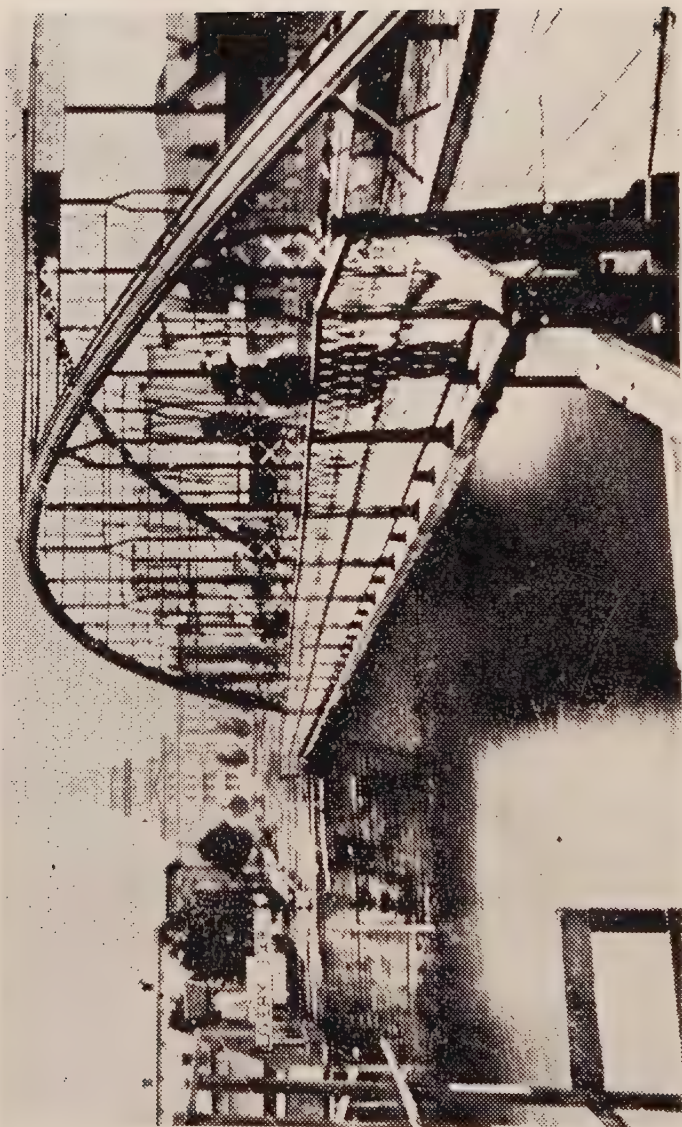
Did you ever notice that Washington avenue is narrower in the block just north of the Grand river bridge than at any other point along the length of the street? This is the reason: the Benton house owners' strip wasn't as wide as Washington avenue, north of Main street at that time. Nor has it ever been, for that matter. The Bush, Thomas and Lee road was five rods wide; Washington avenue several yards wider. This eccentricity in the street width has never been righted.



SMITH TOOKER



In 1858 Michigan avenue acquired its second bridge over Grand river. This lattice bridge replaced a log one built 10 years before. It was torn down in 1871



This is the third Michigan avenue bridge, erected in 1871. Driving or riding over the structure "faster than a walk" brought a \$25 fine, a sign warned

Eight years later in 1866, Smith Tooker, north Lansing bridge designer and contractor, started making his reputation here. In that year he was awarded his first contract, that being to replace the bridge at Cedar street which was taken down at that time. Lansing saw its first covered bridge when Tooker finished his job that year. Fortunately for the city, this bridge was over the Cedar river, for had it bridged the Grand, it would almost certainly have been swept away by the rampage on that river, in the spring of 1875. Lansing's second covered bridge, at Franklin street, also built by Tooker, suffered this fate.

Tooker was awarded his first contract on his bid of \$3,-250 on the Cedar street job. The money was well spent by the city, for the structure had a long life, standing unaltered for 24 years, when, in 1890, it was rebuilt. But its first impression was a good one, and Smith Tooker became Lansing's leading bridge builder.

The looks of the Cedar street covered bridge evidently made quite an impression, for in the following year, when it was decided to take down James Seymour's first bridge at Franklin street, after 20 years' service, Smith Tooker again was awarded the contract. The cost of the new bridge, a covered one, was \$6,260.

In the early days, when wood was the only material available for bridge construction, covered bridges were the pride of any city which could boast of them. Lansing's covered bridges are remembered by the oldest citizens, who recall them with something akin to affection.

Wooden Bridges

Wooden bridges were covered with roofs, for the protection of the lumber from wind, rain and the sun. Without roofs, the planks would be warped, swelled and worn by the elements. A good wooden roof obviated this, just as the roof of a house wards off damage to the interior. In winter time, however, the roofs were an inconvenience, for snow had to be dragged onto the floors of these bridges, so that sleighs and cutters could get through. But the roofs were on the more pretentious wooden bridges for good reason.

Michigan avenue bridges, of prime importance since the crossing was first bridged 82 years ago, started their procession through local engineering history, when the first one was taken down in 1858, to be replaced by a lattice structure. This bridge had no roof, but a great quantity of lumber went into its construction.

In 1871, the bridge was condemned, an iron one was erected in its place in November of that year. It was a single arch, bow-string bridge, and this method of construction was a fortunate choice, there being no piers to be knocked out by high water and ice. This bridge, and the one at Washington avenue, of similar construction, were the only ones in the city standing after the torrent of 1875.

In 1873, Lansing city authorities entered into a contract with the Wrought Iron Bridge company, of Canton, O., for



Lansing's covered bridge at Franklin street, built in 1867. The Franklin Avenue Presbyterian church, erected in 1865, and the Michigan Female College buildings, opened in 1858, both show plainly. The "college" buildings are at the head of the street.

the construction of five new iron bridges over Grand river. These were to be constructed at Washington avenue, River street, Shiawassee street, Saginaw street and Seymour street. The total cost was \$30,610, which, today, seems ridiculously

low for one bridge, to say nothing of five bridges. The River street bridge was known more familiarly as the "mineral well" bridge, the medicinal water well and the hotel of the same name standing at the south end of the bridge in the '70's. The Seymour street bridge was to give direct connection with the Grand Rapids road.

Thus, in the spring of 1874, when the new iron bridges were opened for use Lansing had the following bridges over Grand river: The new Washington avenue bridge, a single span iron one; one at River street, with piers; the one at Michigan avenue which had been completed in 1871, single arch, iron; the new pier bridges at Shiawassee and Saginaw streets; the old covered bridge at Franklin street that Smith Tooker had erected in 1867; the new one at Seymour street, seven in all.

At 11 o'clock in the morning of April 1, 1875, Lansing's most costly flood broke loose with a roar, when a huge ice gorge which had formed in Grand river, gave way and started down stream, coming from the southwest section beyond the city. It swept everything away that would have obstructed its progress, once it got a fair start in its wild charge, and in a few hours, Lansing had lost five bridges, four of them being new iron ones erected the year before.

Tense moments of this flood were offered when the River street bridge, crashing against the Michigan avenue bridge, buckled under and went on, rather than tearing out the single span iron one. When the wreckage reached the covered bridge at north Lansing, the old structure was so well built that it withstood the pressure for half an hour, but gave way just about as the river was about to make a new channel for itself, through the town. Besides the River street bridge, the ones at Shiawassee street, Saginaw street, Franklin avenue and at Seymour street, were all torn out by the debris and rushing water.

Ice and driftwood accounted for the damage, rather than high water. The stories that "streets in this town were navigated in boats," is not true, according to Albert E. Cowles in his history of Ingham county. But the damage from wreckage was great, even though much of the iron work was salvaged to the same bridge company which had erected the iron crossings. The four iron bridges which had been carried away were replaced by the Canton bridge company, at an additional cost of \$14,653.94. They were all replaced once again in the 1920's. One bridge was recovered nearly intact, and was, in 1893, placed over Grand river at South Logan street. The Michigan avenue bridge, moved 18 inches to the north while

being pressed by the River street bridge, was rectified without difficulty, and the Franklin street bridge was replaced by a strong iron one, soon after the flood. The loss to the city was tremendous.

The bridges of Lansing had what might be termed an uneventful history for the next few years. The next activity of any note, was the rebuilding of the Cedar street bridge over the Cedar river, in 1890. At this time, Lansing lost the second and last of its covered bridges, for Smith Tooker's design was ruined when the roof and lattice work was torn off, with the roadway remaining open. However, the foundation of his work, the bridge proper, was left intact.

In 1892, an operation with an interesting sequel was performed; the Michigan avenue bridge which had been erected in 1871, was moved south to span the river at Kalamazoo street, a new crossing first equipped with a second-hand bridge. The bridge apparently got homesick for its first location, for it tore loose and came back there 12 years later, for a short visit.

The new bridge at Michigan avenue, which was erected in 1893 and 1894 is the one now in position at that point. Its cost was \$57,932, but a more spectacular feature at that time, was its width, the same as Michigan avenue, about 108 feet. At one time, this bridge was supposed to be the widest in the world, but the opinion which prevails today is that more civic pride than anything else actuated this contention.

In the same year that the third and present Michigan avenue bridge was commenced, 1893, the city further checked up on its equipment by replacing the iron bridge at Franklin avenue (so named at that time—known as Franklin street for generations) with the wrought iron bridge which was to serve it until nearly the close of the year just ended, 1929. It was in this year, also, that one of the bridges rescued, practically whole, from the flood of 1875, was erected at South Logan street, as previously mentioned.

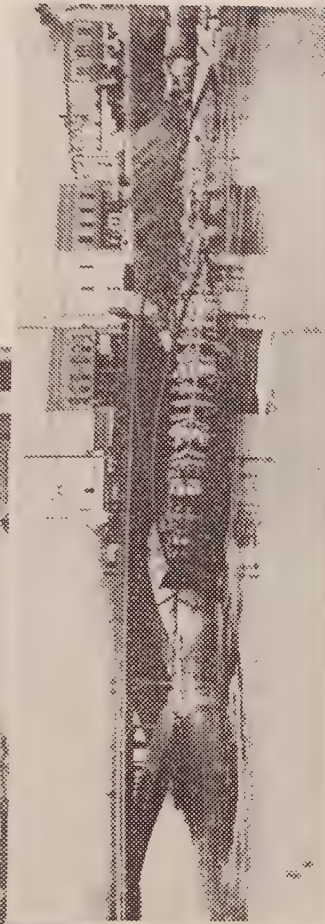
In 1902, the single span iron bridge at Washington avenue, which had escaped the flood of 1875 after its erection the year previous, was taken down, and a concrete and steel bridge was thrown across the gap, in its place. The city awarded the contract on February 17, 1902, to Stamsen and Blome, of Chicago, on their bid of \$31,500, and the bridge was accepted December 22, 1902, and is still in service.

Flood of 1904

Once again Lansing having put its bridges in shape, the stage was all set for a big flood, and it came, almost pat to the



In the spring flood of 1904, Grand river rose far out of its banks. This shows the New York central station flooded with ice and water



Two bridges were lost in the flood. The Kalamazoo street bridge was wrenched from its piers, March 28, to float downstream and come to rest against the Michigan avenue bridge, as shown



year. However, bridge engineers had better material than wood to work with for the fabrication of the bridges which bore the ravages of the flood of 1904, and the only bridge which felt the effects of it was the oldest one in the city, the one at Kalamazoo street, which, erected there in 1893, had been in position at Michigan avenue, before that year, since 1871. Its service had totaled 33 years in the two locations.

It was knocked off its abutments and, like the River street bridge, 29 years before, it butted against the Michigan avenue bridge, but didn't budge it. It was dragged back, at an expense of \$4,000, for its dereliction, and to secure it, the abutments at Kalamazoo street were raised, holding the structure above floating ice and large masses of debris carried down stream in floods.

The water was much higher in 1904 than it had been in 1875, even if the casualties to bridges was lighter. River street, from Kalamazoo street south to Main street, was under four to five feet of water that spring. On North Grand avenue, near Shiawassee, the water stood two feet deep; the New York Central passenger station and tracks, east side of Grand river, and just north of Michigan avenue, were flooded, while on the south side of Michigan avenue, similar conditions prevailed. Water flowed swiftly through the "cut" where the New York Central tracks (then the Lake Shore Michigan Southern railway) pass under the Michigan avenue bridge. Property damage was high.

The city has not been visited by any spectacular floods since 1904, so the program of improvement and replacement of its bridges has gone steadily ahead, keeping pace with the growth of the city, without hindrance from high water.

Richard F. Rey, bridge engineer of the city engineering department, has supplied The State Journal with the more recent highlights of bridge construction, along lines requested, so that the histories of the bridges of Lansing at present can be connected with the records brought forward from other sources.

The present bridge at Cedar street replaced the previous one, in 1909, at a cost not officially stated, but merely estimated at from \$15,000 to \$20,000. In the same year, the bridge over Sycamore creek, necessitated by the eastern extension of Mt. Hope avenue, was built at an estimated cost of \$10,000.

More recent, and important, was the building of the Elm street bridge over Grand river along that street which curves north to join Townsend street on the west side. This crossing

was completed in 1922 at a cost of \$74,000 illustrating the increase in cost of bridge construction over the old days when the city could buy five iron bridges for about \$30,000.

In 1923, the present Shiawassee street bridge was completed, and its cost was \$180,000; the Pennsylvania avenue bridge in 1923, cost \$88,600; the present Seymour avenue bridge was built in 1924, for \$72,000; the year following saw the River street bridge replacement finished for \$35,000.

Later Bridges

With each year bringing expenditures to maintain Lansing's vital bridge system, the present Kalamazoo street bridge was built at a cost of \$235,000, in 1926; the year following saw extensive alterations to the steel and concrete Washington avenue bridge which came to \$27,000.

The year 1928 brought the South Pennsylvania avenue grade separation viaduct over the Grand Trunk tracks, with the city's share coming to \$36,800 of the total cost of from \$65,000 to \$70,000 for the entire work, the railroad, of course, footing the rest of the bill. The present Saginaw street bridge opened also in 1928, cost \$109,000.

The year just closed, 1929, saw the erection of the Island avenue bridge, which crosses Grand river between that street and the Moores Park municipal power station on the west bank. The cost was \$58,000.

The South Logan viaduct, closed to traffic in the summer of 1928, so that a much longer viaduct could be constructed that would lift the roadway over the Grand Trunk railroad tracks at that point, was completed in March, 1930, according to the contractors' contract. Folwell Construction company, of Chicago, built the structure which was the most expensive thus far, in the entire bridge construction history, \$400,000. The building of this viaduct was marred April 12, 1929, when a cofferdam collapsed, killing five workmen.

Another incident in local bridge history was written December 26, 1929, when bus, street car and vehicular traffic was halted across the bridge at East Grand River avenue, preparatory to the construction of a new bridge at this point, at an estimated cost of \$100,000. The Roberts Supply company of Lima, O., are the contractors for this structure, which is to be completed by August, 1930. Thus is closed the active history of the bridge which served the city at this point since 1893, a period of 36 years. The piers of this old bridge had been shielded from impact of floating ice by concrete ice

breakers built on the south side of the supports, but condemnation was inevitable.

This is the latest development in bridge history in Lansing, in a sketch which makes mention of every bridge ever built here, save railroad bridges. That increased costs of the present bridges has been justified, is demonstrated eloquently by the fact that they stand with safety and beauty not approached by the original river crossings which served this city from its inception as a frontier settlement in the woods.

SOME PIONEER BUSINESSES

THE history of Lansing shows that the lure of the capitol building was too much for lower town, which was the name of the settlement which grew to be north Lansing, part of Lansing. Many of the first stores of the village were located at the lower town, shortly to be moved to middle town. The case of the first hardware store is an example of this trend which manifested itself in the affairs of the three villages soon to grow into one city.

"Uncle Dan" Mevis records the first hardware store, in his "Pioneer Recollections," an excerpt from which follows:

"If I am not mistaken, the first hardware store that the Capital City could boast of was that of A. N. Hart at the corner of Franklin avenue and Center street. The second was started soon after by Edward Elliot at the corner of Washington avenue and Allegan street. On the demise of Mr. Elliot this store passed into the hands of Mr. A. R. Burr and George K. Grove. This store burned down somewhere in the 50's and the firm resumed business in the building vacated by Wright & Holmes, 102 South Washington avenue. On the retirement of Col. A. R. Burr from the business, E. H. Whitney took his interest and the firm name became Grove & Whitney, and remained thus until the death of Mr. Grove, in the event of which the affairs of the firm were closed up and the business went into other hands." [The fire which burned out Burr & Grove's hardware store, and many others, was fully described in a story from the old State Republican files, reproduced in the anniversary edition. The date of the fire was October 18, 1857.]

Pioneer stores in other lines have interesting histories. One of these stores which traces its origin back for many years was Frank M. Loftus' grocery store, 316 South Washington avenue, which was closed shortly before his death, May 30,

1928. Mr. Loftus was the inheritor of the oldest grocery business in the city, one which was started almost 84 years ago. "Uncle Dan" wrote concerning this first grocery, tracing its successors:

"Now as to this grocery business. According to my recollection it is this: In 1846 some man started the business in a small log cabin on Franklin avenue, near Center street. In 1848, one Levi Hunt built a small, one-story building at about 103 South Washington avenue and brought that log cabin grocery stock up to 'middle town' and installed it in this building which was known as Hunt's grocery for many years. On the death of Mr. Hunt, the stock was bought by the Clagget brothers, who conducted the business for a few years, when disagreeing, they threw up the business and sold to A. B. Bagley, whose failing health compelled him to relinquish the business after a few years when the stock was sold to J. J. Sidway, who conducted the business for a short time, but on account of a little misunderstanding as to the 'Main law' [Editor's note: This was a liquor law] and a blind pig or something of that nature, Mr. Sidway went west, the stock being transferred to Messrs. Ferrand and Shank who, in the event of the necessity of moving out of the old building for the present structure, moved across the ravine.

"In a short time R. B. Shank became sole proprietor, and at his death was succeeded by Christopher and Loftus, and (the store) is now known as the Frank Loftus grocery."

"MEAD'S CORNER"

MANY things can happen in 12 months. It was but a little over a year ago that north Lansing lost its oldest business building and the city of Lansing a landmark which was so old that even the older generation knew little of its early history. It was but a little over a year ago that the Bank of Lansing, the city's youngest financial organization, bought the old wooden building at the northwest corner of Center street and East Grand River avenue and razed it and built upon the site a new and modern banking home.

And thus disappeared an historic asset, for the building was the oldest business place in the city. Its time-worn weather-beaten exterior once sheltered the old James I. Mead business, one of the first trading posts in this part of the state. The building was aging in the days when The State Journal appeared for the first time 75 years ago.

A few old timers knew something of the history of the building for their parents traded farm products for ironware, tinware, molasses, cotton cloth and such other merchandise as the pioneer merchants carried in stock. The proprietors of the old store bought wool, or rather took wool in exchange for goods. The Meads were early merchants and did a thriving business.

Lansing was but a trading post at the time the old building was built. It faced the Seymour house, south across the



The "Mead" corner, now disappeared.

street, where stages stopped. Pioneers, clearing homes in the dense woods of this section, often used the river to bring their produce to the Mead store. The Mead company bought furs, too, and Indians not infrequently drew their canoes up on the banks of Grand river in north Lansing and unloaded skins which they took to the Mead store. They received tobacco and calico and blankets in exchange for their furs.

When the old building was torn down many of its timbers were found still to be in first class condition. An attempt at a stone wall had been made by the builders and the wall still held valiantly in many places although the plaster used

at the time had disintegrated and stones had dropped out where most needed.

The old building, following its pioneer days, was used for various purposes as the town grew about it. Most recently it was known as "Affeldt's corner." But as long as it stood it housed some sort of business and was located on a principal corner. Many men and women of Lansing, past 70, played under the old wooden "awning" and looked with hungry eyes at the stick candy in cans on the shelves.

Four generations have patronized business housed in the old building. And like some of its customers the ancient building finally yielded to mutations of time. It had served its purpose and has gone the way of the pioneer merchants who built it.

* * *

AT THE right is what the advertisements on the first page of the old State Republican looked like in 1855 and 1856. The advertisements were run in the lower half of the first column, with the list of state officers in the upper half.

For those who are familiar with Lansing's history, these advertisements are eloquent in recalling the past, and no attention need be called to any particular advertisement. To others, it will be interesting merely to point out, in passing, that Andrew J. Cutler's

ANDREW J. CUTLER,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR, Lansing. —
Office over J. C. Bailey's Banking and Exchange office. Personal and prompt attention given to the Collection of Debts, the Payment of Taxes, Investigation of Tax Titles, Sale of Real Estate, &c. 14yl

J. W. & E. LONGYEAR,
LAW AND CHANCERY BUSINESS, Lansing, Mich. J. W. Longyear, Commissioner for the State of New York. Office over Bailey's Banking and Exchange Office. 15yl

Franklin Miller, Attorney and Counselor at Law. Ithaca, Gratiot county, Michigan. Particular attention given to real estate business. 40

Real Estate Office.

LAND AND LOTS bought and sold; also sold on Commission. Taxes paid, Rents collected, &c., by
D. P. REIFF,
Lansing, Mich.

J. J. JEFFRES,
MECHANICAL AND OPERATIVE DENTIST.
Office over F. M. Cowles' Store, Washington ave., Lansing. 17yl

S. R. GREENE,
DEALER in all kinds of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and Plain and Fancy CHAIRS, at the Lansing Furniture Rooms on Washington Avenue. Lansing, April 26.

BENTON HOUSE.

The subscriber having leased this Establishment for a term of years, will devote his entire time to its management, and pledging himself that no efforts shall be wanting to render this Hotel worthy of the continued patronage of its old customers and the public generally, he respectfully solicits a share of the public patronage.
E. H. PECK.

Lansing, November 22, 1855.

COLUMBUS HOUSE,
C. C. DARLING, Proprietor. Directly opposite the Capitol, LANSING, Michigan.
Persons visiting the Capitol, will find this a Comfortable and Commodious House. 1

LANSING LIVERY AND EXCHANGE STABLE.
BY F. LARUE.
Situated between the Lansing & Columbus House. Horses and Carriages always in readiness to convey passengers to all parts of the country.
December, 1855. 35

H. Strickland, Attorney at Law, Solicitor in Chancery, and General Land Agent. Detroit, Clinton county, Michigan. 35

J. L. LANTERMAN,



Office at his residence on Grand street, exactly east of the Capitol.
Lansing, June 30, 1856.

law office, over J. W. Bailey's bank, was on the second floor of the building now occupied by Hardy's Cigar store, northeast corner of North Washington and East Michigan avenues.

Advertisements for the long familiar Benton and Columbus houses, the leading hotels of the town, loom up familiarly. Franklin La Rue's livery stable "situated between the Columbus and the Lansing houses," would be placed on the east side of South Washington avenue between where the Strand hotel now stands, and the south end of the block, where Washtenaw street intersects.

The dental advertisement for J. L. Lanterman fixes his residence as "opposite the capitol" but recall that the old state capitol was referred to, and this would place his office (and home, incidentally) on South Grand avenue in the middle of the block between East Allegan and East Washtenaw streets.

ONE of the best known businesses of Lansing, from its pioneer days until recently, was the leather goods store founded by John W. Edmonds. The advertisement marks the beginning of

NOTICE.

THE UNDERSIGNED having formed a co-partnership for a term of years, under the name and style of Cooledge & Edmonds, hereby notify the trading public that a good stock of Goods in their line may always be found on hand, two doors north of the post office, directly opposite the Capitol. And all persons favoring us with their patronage will be fairly dealt with, and their custom appreciated.

E. W. COOLEIDGE,
J. W. EDMONDS.

Lansing, April 4, 1856. 6w51

> **SADDLE, HARNESS,**
—AND—
TRUNK MANUFACTORY.

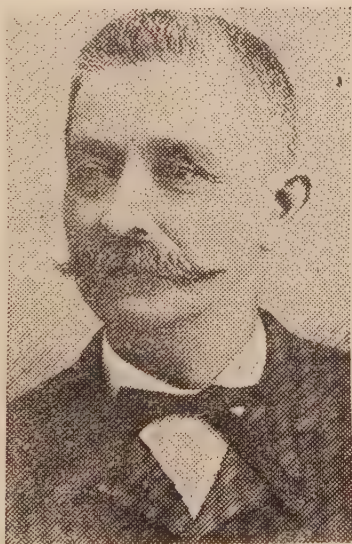
THE UNDERSIGNED take this method of informing the public that they have purchased the entire stock of J. L. Bair, and leased his establishment, where they will keep constantly on hand a complete assortment of Goods in their line, manufactured from the best of Stock that can be procured at Eastern markets, by competent workmen, and in the neatest and latest fashions of Eastern cities, which will be sold as cheap as any establishment in the country.

Two Doors north of the Post-office, directly opposite the Capitol.

Carriage Trimming and Repairing done on short notice.

COOLEIDGE & EDMONDS

Lansing, April 14, 1856. 51y1



JOHN W. EDMONDS

the business which was maintained, through changes in preferences of the trade, and altered conditions, until 1928, when

Robert Edmonds, his son, closed the store, after the business had been maintained for 72 years. E. W. Cooledge, partner of Mr. Edmonds, sold his share in the business to Charles Cannell, after a few years. The location of the store, by the directions in the advertisements, would place it at about 203 South Washington avenue, where the Lansing cafe is now. These advertisements are, of course, photostated from the old State Republican files.

Until the death of J. W. Edmonds, August 15, 1894, the partnership of Edmonds and Cannell was maintained; afterwards it became J. W. Edmonds' Sons company, which was managed by Robert Edmonds until 1928.

J. W. Edmonds is best remembered in Lansing history, however, for his activity in bringing about the organization of the first fire department, which phase of his life is described in history of the fire department written by his son, James P. Edmonds, in this historical edition.

LANSING'S PIONEER THEATERS

By K. C. PARK

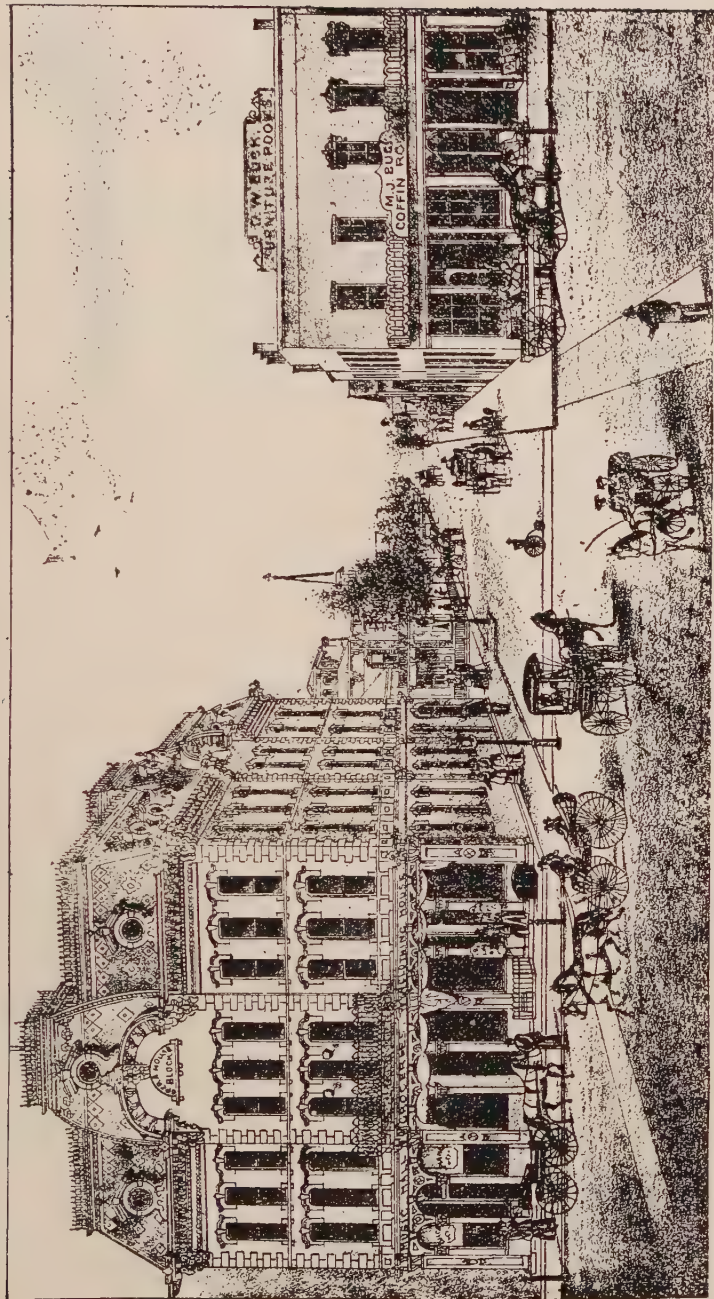
(Managing Editor, State Journal)

DOWNER HALL, Mead's Star theater and Buck's Opera house of a half century and more ago, and the old Bijou and Theatorium of nearly three decades ago, are names linked with Lansing's theatrical days when "a reel" was not the unit of histrionic measurement. In those days, local theatergoers took their Shakespeare raw and their melodrama thick. Home talent entertainments called for the participation and support of the town and the capacity of the opera house.

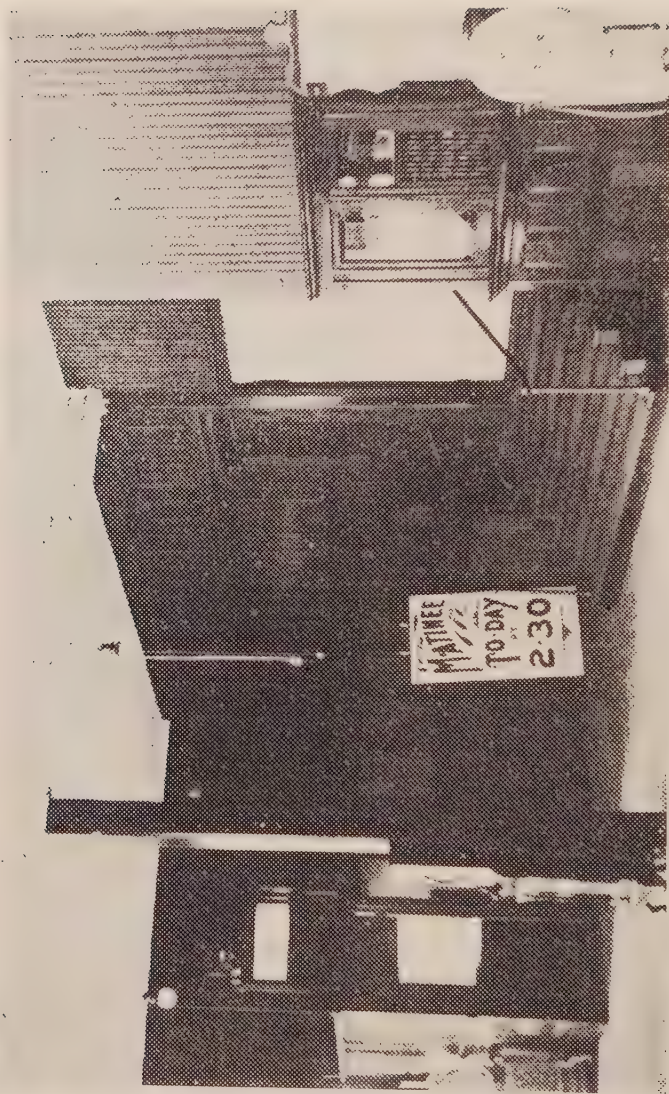
Most of the buildings which a half-century ago served as theaters and amusement centers in Lansing still stand, though with the exception of the Gladmer theater block, few today are known to have been meccas of Lansing's pioneer "first nighters."

Lansing had no hall fitted for dramatic performance until 1862, when Capital hall was opened over the two stores at 109 and 111 South Washington avenue. The building was erected and the hall provided by Judge William H. Chapman.

It was supplanted by "Mead's hall" over the two middle stores in the Mead block erected in 1865 by James I. Mead. It was the city's first real theater and came to be known as the Star theater. It is located at the southeast corner of Washington avenue and Ottawa street. Still faintly visible through



Daniel J. Buck left his print on early Lansing when he erected, in 1872, "Buck's Opera house," occupied by the Gladmer theater today. It stood across Ionia street from his furniture store, at Washington avenue. The old Buck residence, just west of the theater, is also seen in this picture



The lobby of Lansing's first vaudeville theater, the old Bijou, on East Ottawa street, looked like this, a generation ago, a familiar view to Lansing theater goers of 25 years ago, and more

the coats of paint which have been given the building is a large star and the words "Star Theater."

The building which became Lansing's elite opera house was the Buck block erected at Washington avenue and Ionia street. In this same theater, three generations of Lansing theatergoers have gone for their best entertainment and today the house still plays the occasional road show that comes this way.

The building was erected in 1872 by Daniel Buck, one of the city's pioneers. Associated in ownership of the stores which extended across the front of the building, now given over largely to theater foyer and lobby, were Daniel Buck's brother, Benjamin Buck, and S. W. Elliott.

The opening of Buck's opera house March 1, 1872, ended the career of Mead's hall as the amusement center of Lansing.

The house, following its identity as the Buck Opera house, was known for years as the Baird Opera house, the property having been sold to James J. Baird by Mr. Buck. In the course of time, it was sold again, this time to Frank Stahl and Fred Williams. From the names of the children of the two families, then of grade school age, came the new theater name. The children were Gladys Williams and Merritt Stahl and the first part of each first name formed the new name—Gladmer.

High transportation costs, high salaries, the lengthened runs of shows into full seasons in the larger cities, have combined to limit extensively the number of shows "on tour" with the result that the Lansing of 90,000 population sees fewer road shows in a season than the Lansing of 30,000 saw in a fortnight.

Early Stars

Here's a partial but impressive list of the bright lights of the theatrical firmament that have twinkled in the course of earlier years, beneath the roof of the Gladmer: George Arliss, the flawless Disraeli of the stage, Walker Whiteside, Lou Tellegen, Charlotte Walker, Mrs. Fiske, John Drew, Laura Hope Crews, Lou Skinner, DeWolf Hopper, Elsie Janis, May Robson, William Hodge, Chauncey Olcott, Chic Sales, Raymond Hitchcock, Gallagher & Shean, Eddie Foy, Ed Wynn, the Howards of Passing Show fame, David Warfield, Mrs. Leslie Carter, Forbes Robertson and Fred Stone.

Turning to another earlier theater property still standing, Downer hall, on the north side of East Grand River avenue, north Lansing, is still in use by a club and it was only in the last few years that the old scenery and "props" were taken

from the building. It was some years ago that the immensely wide stairway which led to this second floor "emporium of the spoken drama" was torn away to permit the erection of a modern store block.

It was in these three—Mead's, Buck's and Downer hall—that early Lansing saw its drama, its home talent, its "theatricals" of every kind and description. They ranged from the Van Cortland Shakespearian stock regular for brief stands each season at Buck's to the blood and thunder performances where the "heavy" stroked his viciously curled black mustache fiendishly.

Passing to Lansing's first vaudeville is to write names familiar to the present generation though the history is unfamiliar to those who have not been of Lansing at least a decade or two.

The city's first vaudeville theater—the Bijou—was located on East Ottawa street, the first building east of the alley in the rear of the Dodge block—the building which was once the home of The Lansing Journal. Dwight Robson was manager of this first vaudeville house, and Vera Carey was cashier. Casper Schilling was doorman, Dell Carey, stage manager, and Joe Nichols, "props."

The Bijou opened July 10, 1905. The music consisted of a piano, played by Josef Rix, still a Lansing theater musician. The name of Mr. Rix has for more than two decades figured in local theatrical affairs.

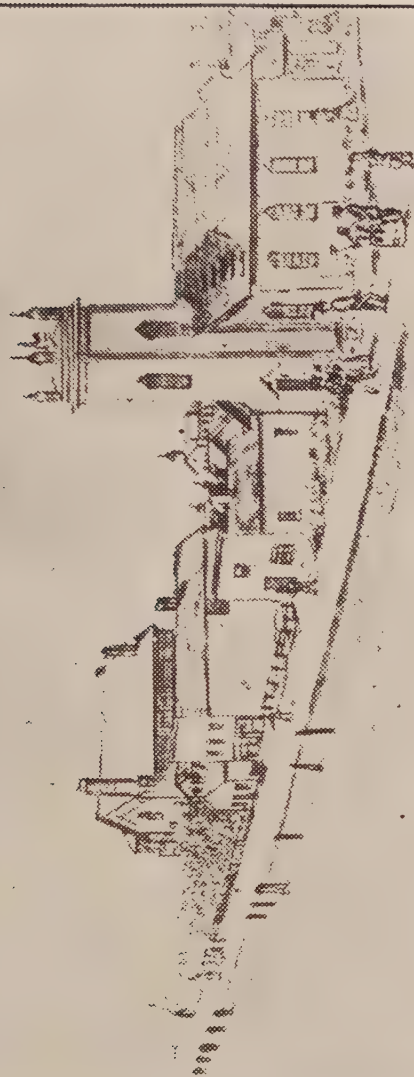
For two years, Mr. Rix played the piano as the sole musical accompaniment of the vaudeville. In 1907, when the Bijou moved to its new home in the old Regent block, Mr. Rix became leader of the city's first vaudeville house orchestra.

Books of the old Bijou show that Al Jolson for his song and dance single on a bill, received the princely salary of \$35 per week. The act must have been a hit, however, for the bill which opened June 11, 1906, had Al Jolson back for a return date.

The name C. S. Humphrey appears on nearly every early bill. He is probably Lansing's greatest showman. He is the "Tink" Humphrey of later big-time vaudeville.

Another famous name which had its place in the old Bijou is that of Marilyn Miller, probably the greatest of all Ziegfeld stars. Miss Miller appeared here with her mother, father and two sisters in an act billed as the "Five Columbians." She was seven years of age then.

Still another name which featured big in later theatrical



Corner Wash. Ave & Ionia St. Looking S. E. 1872.

When Buck's Opera house was erected in 1872, the Episcopal church was moved from the location shown here, southwest corner of Washington avenue and Ionia street, to the foot of Ionia street. A Mead sketch



The D.W. Buck Carriage Works Feb 13-1879.

In 1870, the First Episcopal church stood where the Gladner is today; Daniel Buck's cabinet shop was just north, across Ionia street, as Charles Mead's pen depicts in this sketch

affairs is that of Nellie Revelle, known a decade later on Broadway and throughout the show world.

Ben Turpin played the old Bijou, not as a cross-eyed comedian but as an acrobat. Appearing at the new Bijou two years later was George Primrose, doing a blackface "single."

The new Bijou, in the Regent block, where the Hotel Olds now stands, opened April 8, 1907.

Years later, when the old "Bijou" had given place to the "Regent" the Oakland building burned down. The fire occurred in the morning of December 28, 1923, and the blackened walls of the building were untouched until construction of the Hotel Olds was begun, in the spring of 1925.

The First "Movie"

Sheridan Wall operated one of Lansing's first motion picture theaters, having started the Vaudette at the corner of Ottawa street and Washington avenue, in the building which years before had housed the Star theater. In turn came Herb Fowser, Benjamin Vollmer and Claude Cady as succeeding operators.

Mr. Cady in the years that followed wrote his name for all time on the theatrical history of Lansing and became one of the greatest local showmen of his time. Following his career at the Vaudette, he took over the Colonial, the new Empress and the Gladmer theaters, and extended his theatrical interests to important holdings in Battle Creek and Jackson. In recent years, he disposed of his holdings, closing out his three local properties to Col. W. S. Butterfield in one deal.

The "Colonel" had acquired the Regent some years before and subsequently built the Strand. With the Cady interests, he came to dominate the local amusement field a few years ago.

Another showman, who went through all angles of the game many years ago, was Joseph M. Neal, who started and operated the old Theatorium and built, on the same site, the present Capitol, which he operated for many years as a home of motion pictures, vaudeville and musical comedy. Under the Neal banner, the shows of Red Mack, Bert Smith, Billy Allen, Milton Schuster, Palmer Hines, Curley Burns and others flourished. It was under the Neal banner, too, that the Ted Dalley stock company became one of the most popular organizations of its kind to ever play here. Stella Wimmer was leading woman in this popular company at the peak of its local success here 11 years ago.

There was a time, many years ago, when the list of down-

town theaters had several additional names. North Lansing had its own movie, south Lansing had its "Washington," and the east side its "Orient." Among the former theaters which have vanished was the Majestic, operated by George A. and Clement E. Abel, opposite the Knapp store. Moe Berger and Billy McClure also figured in the operation of this house. It placed musical tabs but did not survive the "theaterless" nights ordained by the state fuel commissioner, and the "flu" scare during the World war. Another theater which has vanished from the picture was a house operated opposite the Mills Dry Goods store on South Washington avenue.

The Jarvis Theater company, now operating the Garden and Orpheum theaters, came into the local theatrical field in about 1915, buying the properties formerly owned by Roy Brown.

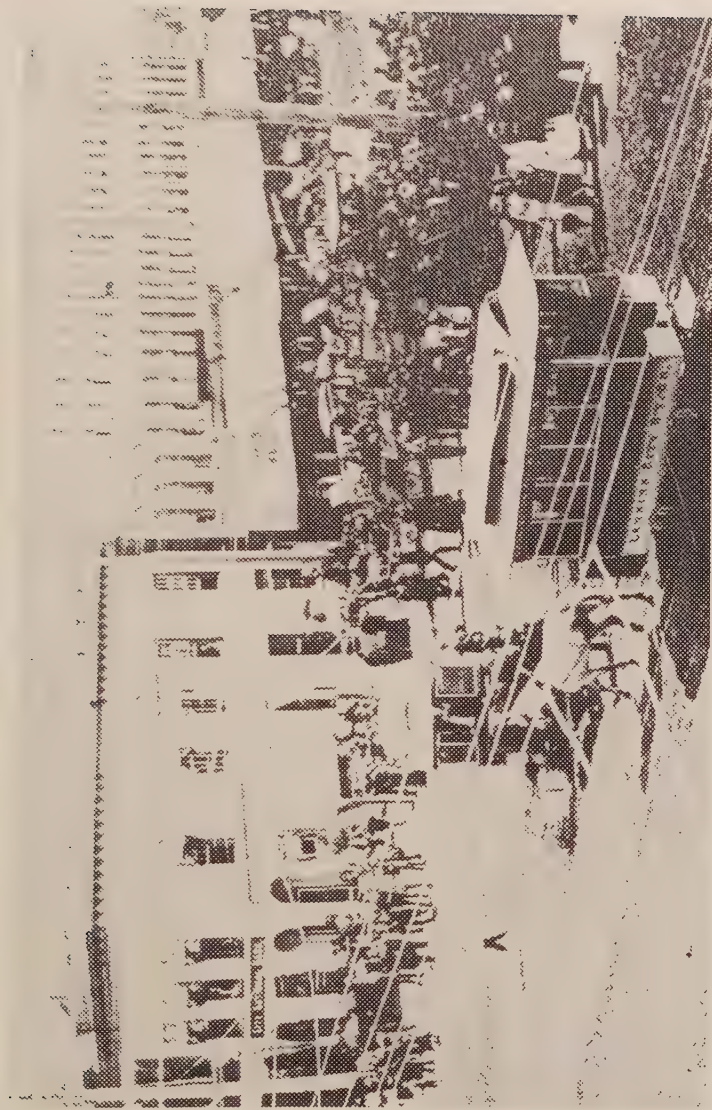
Lansing, incidentally, once had a theater listed in its city directory which was never built. This was the Blackstone theater, promoted by Roy Brown following his career in his smaller houses, on the site where the Capital National bank tower is now being erected. Considerable money was subscribed and an actual start made on the house but the construction of a stage and a section of one wall was the extent of realization of this dream.

THE EARLIEST BANKS

LANSING'S first bank and The State Journal were organized in the same year, 1855, and the building housing the first bank stands today, in the heart of the downtown district. The building on the northeast corner of Michigan and Washington avenues, called the "Ingersoll block," is the building which was erected 75 years ago by J. C. Bailey, Lansing's first banker. Mr. Bailey had entered a business which naturally led to banking institution, as early as 1850 and in this first venture, really more of an exchange office, he utilized a small building directly west across the street, or on the site of the City National bank today.

The story of the banks of Lansing is best told by J. P. Edmonds, recognized as Lansing's unofficial historian. It is his story which is the most connected and coherent, reviewing consecutively, as he does, the banks of this city for 50 years after the first one established by Mr. Bailey in 1855.

In 1864, Mr. Edmonds related in a recent interview, the pioneer banker, with the co-operation of associates, organized



Lansing's "main corner," Washington and Michigan avenues, in 1890, showing horse cars. The City National bank then occupied the Ingersoll block, east across the street from its present location



American State Savings bank corner as it looked when the State Republican was founded. A. J. Vicle's "City Book Store" on the corner, was flanked by that of his competitor, H. Hitchcock

the First National Bank of Lansing, when the private bank of Mr. Bailey gave place to this institution. Though the bank obtained its charter, and was in every way prepared to go into business, the group sold its holdings and building to the Second National bank, so that the First National Bank of Lansing never existed, save on paper.

Mr. Bailey then moved back to his original location and opened another private bank, as J. C. Bailey and Company. The other half of the firm was Charles S. Hunt, prominent socially and financially in the town. He died during the Civil war, shortly after being released from a Confederate prison camp where he had been starved. Mr. Bailey continued his banking business until his death in 1869, when the firm was changed in name to Daniel L. Chase and Company, operated by the executor of the Bailey estate. Several years after, L. K. Hewitt and Company bought the bank and later sold it to the Second National bank, which by then was the largest in Lansing.

Theodore Hunter opened a bank in 1868 at what is now 119 North Washington avenue. Mr. Edmonds delineated further, adding that despite the fact that Mr. Hunter was previously deputy state treasurer and thus an experienced man, his bank was not long in operation, due chiefly to lack of capital. N. G. Isabel, hotel proprietor who acquired the Lansing house, now the Downey hotel, in 1869, opened a bank with John J. Bush as his partner. The partnership was severed when Mr. Bush accepted the presidency of the Lansing National bank, when it was organized in 1872.

North Lansing's importance was asserted in June, 1873, when a private bank was organized on Franklin street, for the trade of clients in that part of the city. Eugene Angell was its president, until the bank ceased to operate in 1883. Two years later, however, another bank was opened in the same part of town, when Stephen B. Carr opened a private bank in the same building which Angell had occupied. Three years later, however, Mr. Carr with others organized the People's Savings bank.

Regarding the Second National Bank of Lansing, previously referred to, Mr. Edmonds recalls that its first officials included James I. Mead, president; Hiram H. Smith, vice president; and Joseph Mills, cashier. In later years the Longyear family, long identified with banking in Lansing, acquired control of the institution.

Ephraim Longyear was its president from 1873, Dennison Longyear, cashier, and Horton Longyear, teller.

The Longyears surrendered their charter to do business as a national bank, later, and the institution became a private bank. In 1886 when the City National bank, now the city's oldest, was organized, the Longyear bank was absorbed by the new one.

The "Bank" Corner

A few years earlier, however, another bank had been organized, the Lansing National bank, in 1872. The first officials of that bank were: John J. Bush, former partner of N. G. Isabel, president; Orlando M. Barnes, vice president, and M. L. Coleman, cashier. The bank was opened April 1, 1872, on the present site of the American State Savings bank, southeast corner of Washington and Michigan avenues. The structure used was a two-story brick building, which had been purchased from Judge William H. Chapman. The corner has been a bank site ever since, for 58 years.

The first name familiar in the city today, occurs in Lansing bank history, shortly after this Lansing National bank was organized, J. Edward Roe entering that bank as messenger in 1878. Save for a few years, Mr. Roe, now president of the American State Savings bank, has been identified with a bank on this corner ever since.

The Lansing National bank was reorganized as a state bank, April 1, 1892, for several reasons, the most cogent of which was that the national charter, granted in 1872, would expire in that year, unless renewed. The Lansing State Savings bank was thus established, Orlando M. Barnes and Mr. Roe being the organizers. Mr. Barnes was its first president, J. W. Potter, vice president, and Mr. Roe, cashier. On February 11, 1921, this bank was merged with the American State Savings bank, and the name under which the combined banks operated was the American State Savings bank, which it retains today. When this merger was accomplished, Mr. Roe was made president and Charles E. Toms, vice president and cashier.

The year 1886 was marked by the emergence of another Lansing banking institution, the City National, which as previously mentioned, absorbed the old Longyear bank. The first officers of the bank were E. W. Sparrow, president, E. F. Cooley, vice president, and Benjamin F. Davis, cashier. They started business on the first real bank site in the city where J. C. Bailey started his first bank in 1855.

In 1895, the City National bank moved directly west across the street to where it is at present. Mr. Davis became president on the death of Mr. Sparrow, and has occupied that

post ever since, being the oldest Lansing banker at his desk today, after 46 years of continuous service. [Editor's note: In January, 1930, Mr. Davis was elected chairman of the board of directors of the City National bank; R. H. Scott succeeded him as president.]

HISTORY OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

By JAMES P. EDMONDS

FOR the first 10 years of its life, Lansing was practically without fire protection except for the efforts of a "bucket brigade;" but in the winter of 1856-7 a number of quite serious fires occurred, some of which were supposed to have been incendiary. This aroused public sentiment to the point where it was determined that a fire fighting unit should be organized.

A large number of the early settlers came from cities and towns in New York and New England where they had been members of their home volunteer fire departments, so it was quite natural that these young men took the initiative and set on foot the movement to organize a company. Fortunately, the original record book has been preserved intact, so from it we are able to trace the history of the company from its inception.

As a preliminary, a mass meeting was called for the evening of October 5, 1857, in the senate chamber of the capitol for the purpose of organizing a fire company. This meeting was largely attended, George W. Peck was elected chairman and R. C. Dart, secretary. The unanimous opinion of all present was that a company should be organized, and with this idea in view, a committee consisting of J. W. Edmonds, R. C. Dart, and S. E. Longyear was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws and report at next meeting. This was held in representative hall, October 27, 1857, at which time the committee submitted a constitution and by-laws which were adopted, and under which the company was named "Torrent Engine company, No. 1." The men who signed the constitution and thereby became charter members were: George W. Peck, R. C. Dart, S. E. Longyear, J. W. Edmonds, A. B. Bagley, H. B. Baker, J. B. TenEyck, A. C. Winters, E. L. Wright, H. B. Shank, J. H. Baker, N. C. Chapman, D. P. Edgar, N. W. Edgar, William Kittle, John G. Darling, Newton Whitney, M. Greenfield, Fred Sweet, F. W. Wescott, George K. Grove, F. D. Knight, R. H. Marcy, H. W. Paddleford, B. F. Savage, H. H. Savage.

The next meeting was held November 3, 1857, at which

time George K. Grove was elected foreman and J. W. Edmonds assistant. It will thus be seen that the new company was quickly organized and ready to fight fires as soon as the proper equipment could be procured. It must be remembered that the company was a purely volunteer organization and in no way connected with the local government, so it could not rely on taxation for raising funds. The only resource open to them was by subscriptions and dues.

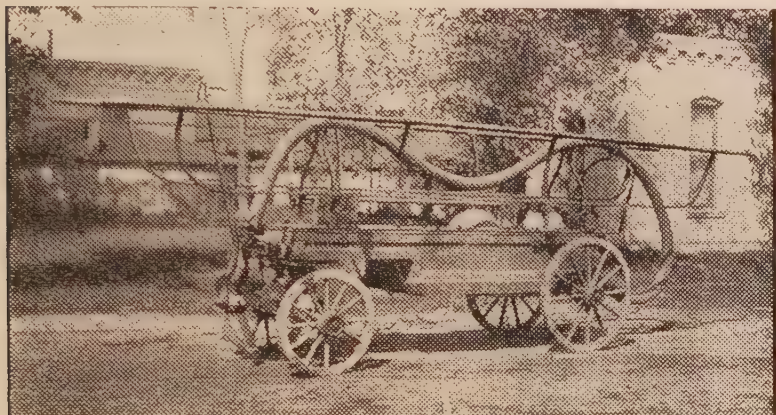
Small Dues

A resolution was adopted under which each member was assessed dues of 10 cents per month and a committee appointed to solicit funds for the purchase of a fire engine. This committee was active during the winter of 1857-8 and by early spring reported that they had succeeded in raising nearly \$1,000 as the board of state auditors had materially aided the fund by making a substantial subscription. At a meeting of the company, March 2, 1858, a committee consisting of Mr. Grove, Mr. Edmonds, and Mr. Winter was appointed with power to negotiate with the firm of Button and Blake, of Waterford, N. Y., for the purchase of an engine. A hose cart was of course necessary, and May 4, 1858, it was voted to let the contract to a local concern, the cost not to exceed \$115.

The engine committee soon reported that the order for the engine had been placed with Button and Blake, the cost to be \$1,100. This firm had the reputation of building the best apparatus then manufactured, and they certainly turned out a good job, well worth the money. The box was made of mahogany, highly polished and inlaid with stars, crescents and other designs. The pump and all other metal work, except the brakes, were of solid brass. The brakes, one on each side, were about 16 feet long and connected to the pump with proper mechanism. The power was supplied by ten men on each side who worked the brakes up and down. "Manning the brakes" at a fire was a heart breaking job, and no one could stand the pace for more than a few moments, so no wonder an ordinance was passed giving the chief authority at fires to call on any able-bodied bystander to take his turn on the brakes. The penalty for refusing was \$5 fine or 10 days in the city "bastile."

The engine was shipped from Waterford to Buffalo via the Erie canal, thence by boat to Detroit, and from there to Jackson over the Michigan Central railroad. A delegation from the company went to Jackson to receive the machine and it was hauled overland, but halted about a mile south of the Ben-

ton house so its entrance into town could be properly celebrated. Mrs. Sarah Merrifield who witnessed the event told me a general holiday was declared and nearly the entire population turned out to see the show. The fire company, numbering 40 men, in full uniform of red shirts and black helmets, marched



"TORRENT NO. 1"

to a point on South Washington avenue near the present Grand Trunk depot, and pulled the engine to a new fire house which had been erected to receive it. The house stood on East Allegan street on the present site of the Capitol Savings and Loan building.

Soon after Torrent No. 1 was organized, other units of the department were formed. One group of young men banded together under the name "Rescue Hook and Ladder company," and at north Lansing, another fire engine company, known as "Protection No. 2," was organized. These units made up the first fire department of Lansing, which was not disbanded till 1872 when they went out of existence and the management of affairs was taken over by the city council.

In the early days, north Lansing was known as "lower town" and that part of the city around the capitol as "middle town." An intense rivalry in all things existed between the two sections, which was reflected in the attitude of the companies toward each other. Sometimes, at fires, more attention was given to settling their grievances than to fighting the fire. It soon was apparent that in order to get the best results it was necessary to have someone in command with authority. With

this idea in mind a joint meeting was held May 19, 1859, for the election of a "chief engineer." The choice fell upon Franklin LaRue, who thus became the first of a long line of "chiefs" who have served since that time. He held the office for some years, being succeeded by George K. Grove, followed by J. W. Edmonds and later by J. W. Wescott.

Company Rivalry

In the old "volunteer" days, frequent meetings called "firemen's tournaments" were held, at which all kinds of competitive stunts were put on. Prizes were given to the company throwing a stream the farthest, for raising a ladder the quickest, and for other activities of the profession. The last tournament of which we have record was held at Ionia, July 1, 1870, when Torrent No. 1 won the prize in the water-throwing contest. This prize was a silver fireman's trumpet which is now in my possession. On it is engraved "Won at Ionia, Mich. July 1st, 1870, by Torrent Engine Co. No. 1 and presented to J. W. Edmonds, July 8, 1870."

In the old days, the "fire boys" were the leaders in social activities and the annual Firemen's ball was looked upon as the crowning event of the season. Not long after the company was organized, the social question commenced to be considered, as the records make frequent mention of balls, parties, etc. On August 10, 1858, a resolution was passed under which it was decided to hold the first annual ball on the evening of Tuesday, August 31, 1858, in Hosmer and Kerr's "new building." This building had just been erected by the firm of Hosmer and Kerr, who had secured the state printing and binding contract, and who were the owners and publishers of The Lansing Republican. It stood on Michigan avenue west where the present Y. M. C. A. building is now located.

The final meeting of "Torrent No. 1" was held June 11,

swelling fountain from which it had for nearly a year drawn its sustenance.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

FIRST ANNUAL BALL

Torrent Fire Engine Co., No. 1.

ON TUESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 31,

At Hosmer & Kerr's New Building.

The Music by the Eaton Rapids Quadrille Band. The Supper, (which will be extra of the price of admission,) provided by N. W. Edgar. Tickets of Admission, \$1.50; to be had of the Committee of Arrangements. Charges Free.

G. K. GROVE, Clerk of Arr.

Lansing, August 24, 1858.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

RELIEF IN TEN MINUTES!

RYAN'S PULMONARY WAFERS ARE

Photostat of the notice of the Firemen's ball, as it appeared in The State Republican, mixed in with the patent medicine advertisements.

SECOND ANNUAL BALL

OF

TORRENT ENGINE COMPANY, NO. 1,
AT THE
LANSING HOUSE,
On Thursday Evening, December 29th, 1859.

HONORARY COMMITTEE.

H. B. SHANK, *Chief Engineer.*

C. C. DODGE, *Asst.* “

Alderman A. R. BUCK,

“ M. KIDDER,

A. COTTRELL, *Foreman H. & L. Co.*

J. J. WHITMAN, *Asst.* “

Alderman WM. H. PINCKNEY,

“ JOHN A. KERR.

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

M. WHITNEY,

H. B. BAKER,

WM. WILEY,

H. H. SAVAGE,

ALEX. BLAIR,

N. C. CHAPMAN,

JOHN GRAHAM,

W. A. BARRETT.

HALL COMMITTEE.

A. C. WINTER,

J. W. EDMONDS,

GEO. K. GROVE.

INTRODUCTION COMMITTEE.

T. W. WHEATON,

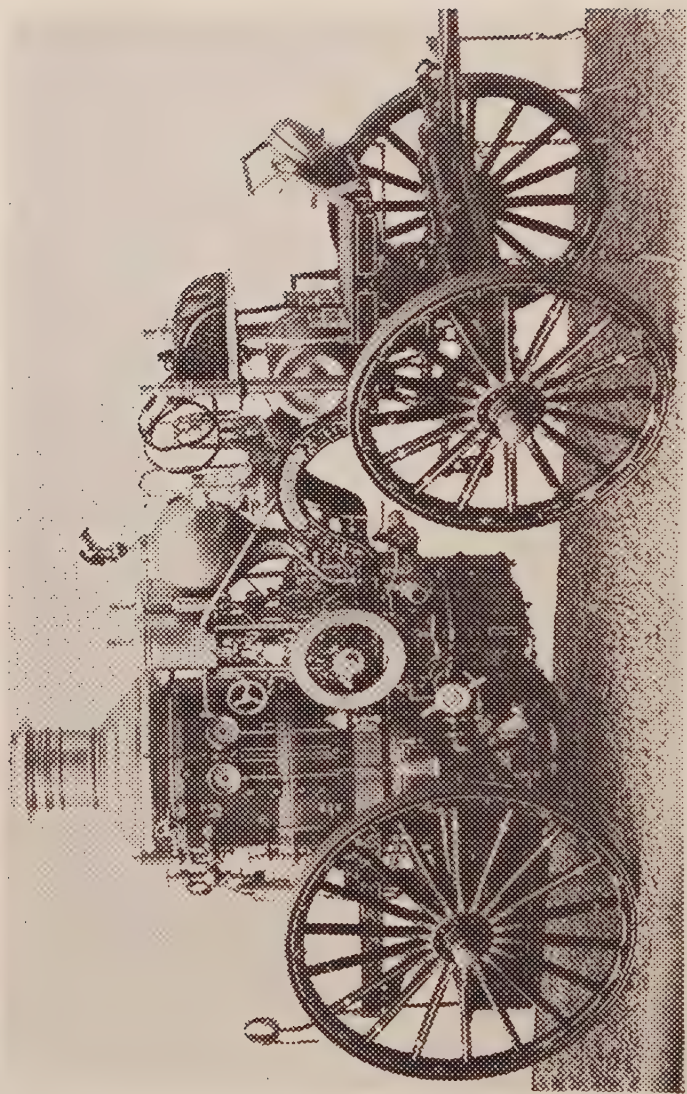
H. W. PADDELFORD.

CARRIAGES IN ATTENDANCE.

Music.—Bascam & Minnis' Band.

BILL, \$2 50.

In order to raise funds the fire boys gave these balls. When this one was held the Lansing house stood directly east across South Washington avenue from the present Downey hotel. The “bill,” \$2.50, must have been terrific in Lansing's muddy, pioneer days



One of Lansing's steam fire engines, which went into the discard 40 years ago, carrying with it a great deal of the romance of firemen in action

1872, when it was voted to disband and sell the hand engine to the city of Cheboygan, Mich., and take in payment bonds of that city. A committee was appointed to receive the bonds from Watts S. Humphrey, mayor of Cheboygan, and hold them in trust for the company. The bonds were afterwards sold and the proceeds divided.

In the summer of 1915, the writer and the late Oscar L. McKinley accidentally found the hand engine in Cheboygan. It was still in good condition, and after some negotiations with the city authorities, it was purchased and shipped back to Lansing. For some years it was kept at No. 3 fire station, but in 1927 it was presented to the Michigan Pioneer and Historical association, where it will be preserved as a valuable relic of bygone days. As a companion piece, the fireman's trumpet won at Ionia in 1870, and mentioned above, will be given to the same association.

The disbanding of the Volunteer company was anticipated by the city fathers. As late as 1871, we find the council taking action for the betterment of the fire fighting equipment.

February 9, 1872, the mayor reported that a contract had been entered into with the Silsby Manufacturing company, for an engine of the rotary pump type to cost \$5,000. At the same meeting it was voted to receive bids for another engine. Bids were immediately submitted from two makers only, which were Silsby Manufacturing company, \$5,000, and Clapp and Jones, \$3,500. The two engines were soon received, as on March 11, 1872, we find the council passing a resolution appointing Hiram Beamer, engineer of the Silsby, and C. T. Rogers for the Clapp and Jones, each at a salary of \$200 per year. The Silsby engine was put into service at No. 1 station, and the Clapp and Jones at No. 2, north Lansing. They were both powerful and well built machines and gave good service for many years.

On May 20, 1872, the mayor reported to the council that the volunteer companies were about to disband, and that some action should be taken to organize a city fire department. With this in mind, the old companies were requested to submit a list of not less than 20 names from which to select the new company. This was done, on June 17, 1872, T. W. Westcott was elected "chief engineer," by vote of the council.

The "Spoils" System

In those days, a city election was held each year, and politics dominated city affairs to a large extent. Thus the appointive officers of the department soon became political

"footballs"—"to the victor belonged the spoils," and who held the office of chief depended entirely upon which party happened to be in power. In the period from 1872 to 1894 this system prevailed as there were frequent changes in the head of the department. During this time the office was held by J. W. Edmonds, John Eberly, N. J. Roe, V. R. Canfield, James Markey, T. H. Sedina, William Wright, and E. H. Esseltyn. Any old resident can easily separate the democrats from the republicans in this list.

In 1894, it was determined to remove the administration of police and fire department affairs from the influence of politics. Accordingly the city charter was amended to provide for the appointment, by the mayor, of a non-partisan board of police and fire commissioners to consist of six members—three from each of the dominant political parties.

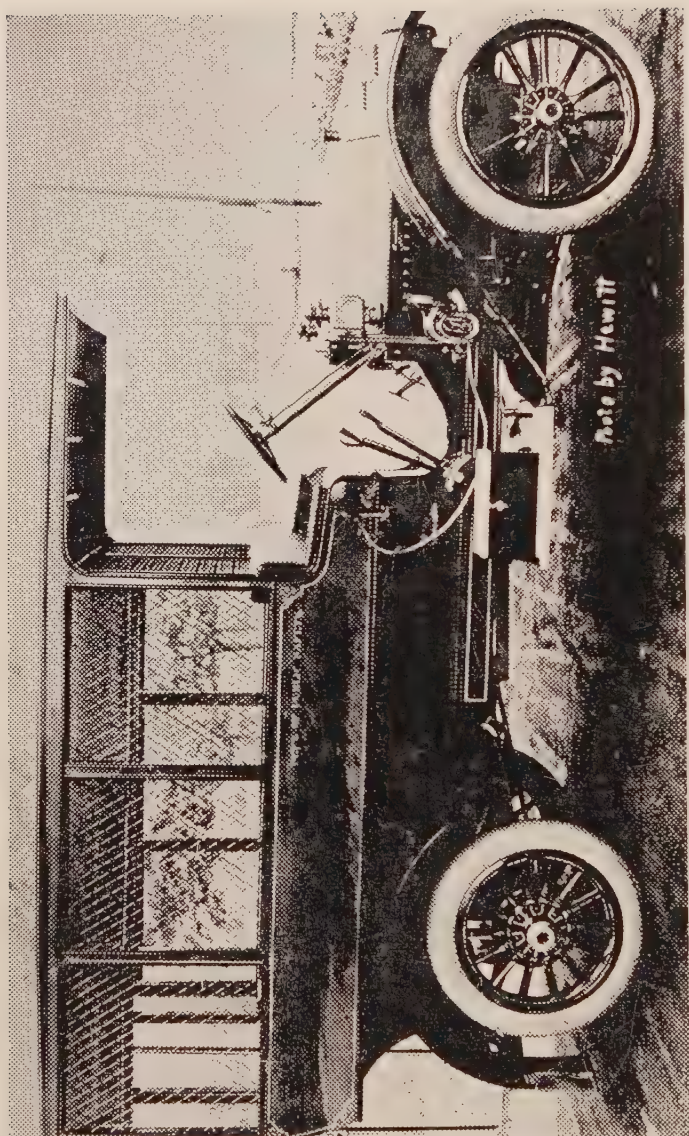
The first commission went into office May 1, 1894, its personnel being R. J. Shank, J. W. Edmonds, Fred Shubel, jr., R. M. Fillmore, Charles H. Osband and T. H. Sedina. One of the first acts was to elect V. R. Canfield as chief, who held office for some years, being followed by James Markey and T. H. Sedina. On February 1, 1904, the board appointed Hugo R. Delfs chief, and he has held the office continuously since that time. It is largely through his efforts that the Lansing fire department has reached the high state of efficiency it rightfully enjoys.

The management of the department has been faithfully carried out by the commissioners for more than 35 years; but to the board of 1908 belongs the distinction of becoming pioneers in a move which entirely revolutionized fire fighting equipment. Chief Delfs learned that a company in St. Louis, Mo., was experimenting with an automobile pumper in which the engine was used for driving the pump as well as for traction. Lansing acquired the first of these. It arrived in November, 1908, and after a very exhaustive test, was accepted, and put in service December 16, 1908.

There is no question but what Lansing enjoys the distinction of being the first city in the United States to purchase and put into service an automobile fire engine. The total cost of the same was \$6,500. As soon as it became known that Lansing was having good results from this pumper, it attracted great attention, and fire chiefs came from far and near to see it in operation. Since then, automobile apparatus has been developed to a high state of perfection and adopted by every department in the country, so the horse drawn engine now exists only in memory.



Lansing's police force, some 30 years ago, when the police station was on the south side of Michigan avenue, just west of Grand River. Back row, left to right, James Black, captain, Orla Backus, Lon Huntoon, Elton Esseltine (with straw hat), John Oatley, Addison Scott and Horace Parsons. First row, seated, Horace Dresser, William McKale, then a deputy sheriff, now an alderman, Chief John Sanford, H. E. McMillan in citizens clothes, believed to have been "the" detective, John McKinley, constable, and Frank Morosky, jailer



Here is Lansing's first motorized police "wagon." It was acquired during the time when Henry Behrendt, now of Detroit, was chief of police. This fixes the date as previous to 1913, when Mr. Behrendt left the department. It was bought, it is believed, in about 1908. It was regarded as pretty "slick" in those days

LANSING IN THE CIVIL WAR

LANSING'S contribution to the man power of the Union armies during the Civil war, and the efforts which The State Republican made to arouse and maintain the proper feeling and spirit, are facts of local history amply attested and recorded in the files of the ancestral newspaper which is now The State Journal. Michigan, young, "broke" and somewhat puzzled about how to aid the federal government in this war which was just breaking out, found its own embattled sentiments expressed in the words of an editorial from The State Republican for April 17, 1861, shortly after hostilities had broken out. It follows, in part:

"Civil war is at our doors. Michigan is called upon for a regiment of infantry or rifles—will she comply? If so, she must contemplate certain obstacles and make ready for them.

"First and foremost, Michigan has no money; she has no arms, hardly a musket, no accoutrements of a serviceable kind, no blankets, tents, powder, or ball. Yet the act of congress of 1795, which overrules and overrides all state constitutions, is imperative, and makes it necessary for the state to do its share. One of two ways must be adopted—either treasury warrants must be issued, upon which to raise money, or the legislature must be called together, and bonds must be issued for that specific purpose.

"The hour for decisive action has come to all patriotic men."

But in the following week, there are no evidences of any doubt as to what Michigan would do, for the old newspaper printed this:

"A commendable spirit exists among our volunteer companies, which makes ample amends for the lack of activities heretofore existing among us. Williams' Rifles is running over full, and still they come. Williams' Light Infantry (formerly Light Artillery), a German company, is nearly or quite full. The Independent Zouaves, a crack company of young men, has recently been organized and already contains some 30 members."

Ninety-two men joined Company B, Williams' Rifles of this regiment. Outstanding among these volunteers were: James B. TenEyck, Charles B. Lewis, Richard Cottrell, Allen Shattuck and Stephen E. Longyear. Charles Bertrand Lewis, who later became "M-Quad," the famous columnist on the Detroit Free Press, probably the first journalist to employ this style of writing, was another volunteer. His writings remained famous long after his death, and were syndicated.

When the Second Regiment of volunteers was organized April 30, 1861, this was "news" in every sense of the word, and was told to the readers of the Republican in its issue for May 1. Officers of the regiment were: Israel B. Richardson, Pontiac, colonel; H. L. Chipman, Lansing, lieutenant colonel; A. H. Williams, Lansing, major. Colonel Richardson served in the Third Infantry through the Mexican war and was three times breveted for his gallant services, said the news report, and an optimistic future was predicted for the second regiment.

"Elder's Zouaves, to the number of 46 men, took their departure from among us, to fight the battles of their country," chronicled The State Republican in its issue for August 28, 1861. Continuing, the article says: "This makes the third company that has gone out from among us on this patriotic errand, and it is simply just to say that these are fully equal to the best of those who have gone before them. They are mostly young men of medium size, active, intelligent, orderly in their deportment, and if they do not make good soldiers, we greatly err in judgment." Officers of the Zouaves were: Capt. Matthew Elder, First Lieut. A. Cottrell, Second Lieut. N. C. Chapman, Orderly Sergt. G. W. Chandler, Second Sergt. William Alexander, First Corp. John A. Elder, Second Corp. Samuel A. Baldwin, Fourth Corp. Elijah Allen, Thomas Little, drummer, Sibly J. Ingersoll, fifer, and Franklin Baldwin, wagoner.

It was not long before the daily stint of writing patriotic and encouraging editorials became unbearable for Isaac M. Cravath, editor of The State Republican in 1861, for in the issue for October 23, that year, we read the determination of

Cravath to resign his post and recruit a company of Lansing men for the 12th Regiment, Michigan Volunteers.

A Sword for a Pen

Thus it was that an editor went to war, following hundreds, to be followed by many hundreds more. The people of Lansing were slowly coming to realize that the idea of a 60-day battle with the grey-coated Confederate forces was but a bitter mirage, and that the strife would be a long and a bloody one.

The Third Michigan regiment contained a company composed entirely of Lansing men: Company G, with John R. Price, captain, Robert B. Jefferson, first lieutenant, and James B. Ten Eyck, second lieutenant. The Seventh Michigan regiment was a fighting outfit with a great war record to its credit, too. This was recruited partly from Mason and surrounding townships. When Jane W. Blent wrote the famous song, "Michigan, My Michigan," she dedicated it to this regiment.

The Eighth Michigan regiment, which followed the Seventh into the war, was dubbed "The Wandering Regiment" because its fighting orders led it through many states of the south. It was part of the famed Second Brigade under the command of General William Tecumseh Sherman, which made the historic "march to the sea" through Georgia.

The Twelfth Michigan infantry included the all Lansing company, Company G, of which Isaac M. Cravath was captain, and George H. Cassimer was its first lieutenant. The assistant surgeon of the regiment to which Company G was sent was Dr. Robert C. Kedzie, of Michigan State college, and father of Dr. Frank Stewart Kedzie, former president and historian of the college today.

Though the Thirteenth Michigan regiment was recruited at Kalamazoo, a Lansing man, James J. Jeffries, was captain of Company D. In the Sixteenth infantry, Jacob Webber, Lansing, was first lieutenant of Company G.

No attempt can be made in this almost disrespectfully brief sketch, to give the names of more than a few of the most prominent Lansing men who were in the posts of command during this four years' war. Their sons and daughters today are marked, because of the valorous services; the sole object of these few instances is to show that the state, which had been admitted to the union but 24 years before, was prodigal in the aid which it offered to the cause of the preservation of the Union.

Ingham county sent 2,097 men to the Union armies. That

the development and prosperity of this county was materially affected by the depredations of these four years, is shown, mutely, by the fact that there were less people in the county when the war ended than there had been at its outset. The population figures are: in 1860, the total was 17,398 and in 1864, the population was 17,128.

The spirit of the times is also shown by the fact that from the more than 2,000 men who enlisted from this county, only 122 were drafted, and but 51 were excused from the draft. Substitutes were bought, in those days, however, by employers and by fathers, and social stigma seemed not to have been the penalty of this practice, as would most certainly be the case today.

The nation as a whole was getting a better vision of the Civil war, waged for the preservation of a union, the freedom of the slave, and for the breaking down of the threatened economic superiority of the south.

LANSING AND HOWELL PLANK ROAD

INGHAM COUNTY'S first road, to be recognized as such, was of oak planks, part of the Lansing and Howell plank road. The 21 miles of this road that lay in this county, would cost, conservatively \$655,000 to build today. In the 1850's the materials were practically free. When the first settlers of Ingham county, and Lansing township, entered this section with their household goods in wagons drawn by ox teams, Lansing was a two weeks' journey from Detroit, according to many stories left by these pioneers.

The matter of improving roads by laying a tax, was out of the question in 1850. Michigan people were poor; money was tight. In 1848, however, the state legislature passed the "Plank Road Act" which operated so that road builders with proper charters could obtain rights of way, thrust their roads through, and maintain toll gates so as to make traffic pay for the road. The fact that the state legislators had their first taste of the roads of interior Michigan when they came to the new capital, Lansing, in 1848, may have had something to do with the passage of the act.

The story of the plank road which was eventually pushed through between Lansing and Detroit is of interest to everyone who ever made the trip, and that includes practically everyone in this city. As to the cost of the 21 miles of plank road, if it were to be rebuilt today, the estimates are contained in Fuller's "Historic Michigan," Vol. III, which deals with Ingham county. Ten million feet of oak, at five cents a board

foot, plus the work of grading and other allowances which were made by a meticulous writer, would bring the present day total cost of reproducing the 21 miles of it, to \$655,000—a staggering figure for that piece of roadway which is now a modern concrete highway, laid at a small fraction of that price.

Many charters for road building were applied for, but most of them were without merit, for a large sum was required of any applicant, as security that the work would be completed. It was estimated that the cost of a plank road between Detroit and Lansing would cost at least \$100,000. There were many strict provisions in the charter requirements as laid out by the legislature, but despite these barriers, many would have essayed the task of building the road, for the privilege of erecting toll gates every five miles, was a strong inducement.

One of the First

The Detroit and Howell Plank Road company was one of the earliest in the state which actually got into operation. By 1850, its road was in operation between these two points. The material was growing on both sides of the right of way, in dense splendor. Previous to the coming of the road contractors, families had to heap great logs of timber into piles, and burn it, to clear their land. With road builders willing to pay something for this waste lumber, great was the rejoicing at the coming of the road through this section.

The plank road between Lansing and Howell was a necessity, with the completion of the other part of the distance into Detroit, and, accordingly, on March 20, 1850, the Lansing and Howell Plank Road company was chartered, according to the data of James P. Edmonds, local historian. The members of this company were James Seymour, Hiram H. Smith, George W. Lee and William H. Townsend. Some of the money for this road was raised in Rochester, N. Y., where Mr. Seymour lived, by the selling of forest land in this section.

Turner, Smith and Company, who financed the road, made money and paid dividends to their stockholders. Eastern capital was sent into this section for investment in land and roads, because roads enhanced the value of lands along the right-of-way. US-16 today coincides almost identically with the plank road routing between Lansing and Detroit. Indian trails were the basis for the original roads through this section of Michigan, as well as many others.

Sawmills were established all along the plank road route

Good Intent Line

OF COACHES.

Tri - Weekly



Line Between

KALAMAZOO, BATTLE CREEK & GRAND RAPIDS.

The PROPRIETOR has recently Stocked this Route with GOOD Horses; new Coaches and careful and experienced drivers. No pains will be spared to make this a COMFORTABLE and AGREEABLE route to travelers.

This is the nearest and BEST route, and over the best roads to

Hastings, Flat River, Saranac, and Ionia.

LEAVES Battle Creek and Kalamazoo, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings; on the arrival of the M. C. R. R. Cars from the East and West. From Battle Creek, this line passes through Ross Centre, Yorkville, Gull Prairie, and there connects with the Stages from Kalamazoo for Prairieville, Orangeville, Yankee Springs and Middleville, connecting there with Stages for Grand Rapids, which pass through Caledonia, Whitneyville and Cascade.

LEAVES GRAND RAPIDS

for Middleville, there connecting with Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Line, passing through the above named places, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, arriving at Battle Creek and Kalamazoo in time to take the Cars for the East or West, and also in time for Humphrey & Co's line of stages for the Southern Railroad.

Stages Leave & Take Passengers at all Public Houses!

Conveyances may be had at all of the principle places on the Route, to any part of the country.

C. W. LEWIS, Proprietor.

Yankee Springs, Nov. 1854.

In the 1850's, when central Michigan was being crossed by stage coach lines, C. W. Lewis, nicknamed "Yankee Lewis," because of the name of his home town, passed out handbills advertising his line. This is a photostat of one of the hand bills. Similar coaches ran over the Lansing and Howell plank road



This is what the Olds Motor Works looked like in 1902, in the days when the product was known, officially, as "the horseless carriage," years after Lansing's stage coach days. The original building was remodeled into the administration building, which early in 1930 was to be replaced by a newer one. The picture was taken some 200 feet south of Isaac street (now Olds avenue). The building was erected on the site of the old fair grounds, the buildings of which are seen at the left. The plank walk, shown at the extreme right, is a continuation of Division street, leading to the factory. Chips of wood indicate that it had been constructed shortly before this picture was taken. This view faces south. Grand river is just beyond the factory; Moores River drive was later to be laid out directly opposite, on the south bank of Grand river

and the construction of the road was completed to Williamston by the summer of 1851. When the roadbed had been graded after a fashion, over one section, heavy string pieces were laid laterally along the road, and oak planks were spiked to them. The timber was three inches thick, and it was calculated to last for many years, but the increase of traffic which resulted from the easier transportation, shortened the life of the road accordingly. The planks wore out in the middle, and the ends began to turn up, warped by the heat of the summer sun. Winter didn't improve them, with heavy stage coaches banging along on the warped planks.

But the road was completed into Howell by July 1, 1853, and the last link had been made to connect the metropolis and the capital. A line of through mail and passenger stage coaches was soon started by a firm of "Hibbard and Burrell," of Detroit. The coaches carried 20 passengers, with mail and baggage in a wedge-shaped compartment built on the rear of the stage. Four horses pulled a stage, and with relays at 15-mile intervals, the Detroit-Lansing trip was made in 10 hours, if the weather was good.

Tri-weekly service between Lansing and Detroit was maintained over the 83-mile road, and the fare was \$4 one

Detroit & Milwaukee R.R.

CHANGE OF TIME.

ON AND AFTER MONDAY, JUNE 30, 1856, and until further notice, Passenger Trains will be run between Detroit and Owosso, as follows, (Sundays excepted):

TRAINS WESTWARD.

LEAVE		LEAVE	
Detroit.....	7 00 A. M.	Detroit.....	2 00 P. M.
Royal Oak.....	7 40 "	Royal Oak.....	2 40 "
Birmingham.....	8 00 "	Birmingham.....	3 00 "
Pontiac.....	8 20 "	Pontiac.....	3 20 "
Draxton Plains.....	8 40 "	Draxton Plains.....	3 40 "
Waterford.....	8 45 "	Waterford.....	3 45 "
Springfield.....	9 05 "	Springfield.....	4 05 "
Rose.....	9 18 "	Rose.....	4 18 "
Holly.....	9 38 "	Holly.....	4 38 "
Fentonville.....	9 58 "	Fentonville.....	4 58 "
Linden.....	10 23 "	Linden.....	5 18 "
Gaines.....	10 43 "	Gaines.....	5 33 "
Vernon.....	11 18 "	Vernon.....	6 18 "
Corunna.....	11 43 "	Corunna.....	6 43 "
Reese Owosso.....	11 55 "	Reese Owosso.....	6 55 "

TRAINS EASTWARD.

LEAVE		LEAVE	
Owosso.....	6 40 A. M.	Owosso.....	1 40 P. M.
Corunna.....	6 58 "	Corunna.....	1 58 "
Vernon.....	7 17 "	Vernon.....	2 17 "
Gaines.....	7 47 "	Gaines.....	2 47 "
Linden.....	8 18 "	Linden.....	3 18 "
Fentonville.....	8 37 "	Fentonville.....	3 37 "
Holly.....	8 57 "	Holly.....	3 57 "
Rose.....	9 18 "	Rose.....	4 18 "
Springfield.....	9 39 "	Springfield.....	4 39 "
Waterford.....	9 49 "	Waterford.....	4 49 "
Draxton Plains.....	9 55 "	Draxton Plains.....	4 55 "
Pontiac.....	10 15 "	Pontiac.....	5 15 "
Birmingham.....	10 35 "	Birmingham.....	5 35 "
Royal Oak.....	10 55 "	Royal Oak.....	5 55 "
Reese Detroit.....	11 36 "	Reese Detroit.....	6 35 "

There will be a daily Freight Train, leaving Detroit at 6 A. M. and Owosso at 8 A. M., Sundays excepted.

A. H. ROOD, Sup't.
Office Detroit & Milwaukee R.R. Co.,
Detroit, June 28, 1856.

704

New Route to Detroit!

The undersigned have commenced running a Daily Line of Stages

Between Lansing and Owosso,

Connecting at the latter place with the Detroit & Milwaukee Railway.

Stages leave Lansing daily, Sundays excepted, at 7 o'clock A. M., and arrive at Owosso at 12 1-2 P. M., ALWAYS in time for the cars.

Leave Owosso at 12 1-2 P. M., and arrive at Lansing 7 P. M.

The distance between Lansing and Owosso is 34 miles, and the road one of the best in the country.

J. M. SHEARER, at the Lansing House, Agent for Lansing. BOSS & BRADLEY.
Owosso, Aug. 1, 1856. 694

These two ads, photostated from The State Republican files, show that even after the railroad had reached Owosso, the combination stage coach and train trip between Lansing and Detroit took 12 hours, while the stage coach had required only 10. But the greater comfort of the trains was undoubtedly an inducement.

way. With the coming of the Detroit and Milwaukee railroad to Owosso, and later to St. Johns, the popularity of the plank road began to wane slightly, but for some years, the stage coach on the plank road was the accepted mode of travel.

By 1866, the planks had outlived their usefulness and the Lansing and Howell Plank Road company was authorized to remove the wood. Gravel was substituted, in moderate quantities. The cost of digging and hauling gravel restricted its use. The collection of tolls proceeded with the gravel roads, however, and was tolerated by passengers and shippers, until early in the 1880's a blanket settlement was made with the company, by the state, and the toll gates and collectors' houses were discarded.

The trip between Lansing and Detroit, which was cut from two weeks to one week, by wagon trails cut through the woods, and to 10 hours by plank road and stage coaches, was cut to a few hours when the first chuffing automobile came into restricted use. It is an interesting fact, that the original plank road charters were granted for 60 years; the one under which the Lansing and Howell Plank Road company operated expired technically, in 1910, at about the time when the automobile's developing efficiency was beginning to be visioned as we know it today.

THE FIRST OLDSMOBILE



Directors Meeting

Aug. 21, 1897

It was moved by Mr. Stephens that R. E. Olds be elected manager for the coming 11 months. Carried

It was moved by Mr. Stephens that the Manager be authorized to build one ~~perfect~~ carriage in as ^{early} perfect a manner as possible and complete it at the earliest possible moment.

Carried
On motion, meeting adjourned
W. H. Adams
Secy

Here is "Jim" Schiller, at the wheel of the first Oldsmobile. The picture, taken in 1899, shows the others to be Bert Adams beside Schiller, with John Bohnet in the back seat in the dark suit, and beside him is Leonard E. Curphy, then chief engineer. Note that in the minutes of the first meeting of the directors, the expression, "Build one perfect carriage," was changed to, "Build in as nearly perfect a manner as possible"



The old test track of the Reo Motor Car company is pictured here, with one of the crude automobiles dashing toward you at perhaps 20 miles an hour, which was just 20 years ago. The track was on the site now occupied by the company's club house, just south of the Grand Trunk tracks, east side of South Washington avenue

RECREATION OF YESTERDAY

"TOE TRIPPING" IN THE 1850'S

THAT "toe tripping," the conventional mode of indicating that dancing was in progress, was one of the most popular forms of public entertainment, in the 1850 decade in Lansing, is eloquently testified in the columns of the old State Republican for that period.

Among the simple and restricted kinds of public diversion of that day, dancing was the reliable stand-by, but from the attention devoted it by the editors of the Republican, it can be safely inferred that they, as a class, didn't have much time for the sociable exercise.

But what they might have lacked in personal interest, these editors attempted to compensate for by the use of flowery language in the comments on the infrequent functions. Great outbursts of euphuism were evoked from the brain of DeWitt Clinton Leach when he tried to give the Benton house Thanksgiving Day dance a helping hand in 1855, by calling attention to it in his editorial paragraphs, which often carried the most interesting local news. The State Republican said this on November 20, 1855:

"THANKSGIVING PARTY—Mr. E. H. Peck, the proprietor of the Benton House, opens his rooms on this day, to the devotees of Terpsichore. We are assured that this is to be the affair of the season, and that the proprietor of the Benton House will have just cause to acknowledge that the welcome Lansing gives her stranger citizens is most hearty and cordial. Ah! We envy the light and exceedingly fantastic toes that will

be tripped that night, but trust the double blessing, 'He that giveth and receiveth' will encompass host and guest."

Two weeks later in the issue for December 4, Mr. Leach said of the party which was held November 29: "The party at the Benton House passed off very well, somewhere over a hundred present, and everything up to program, save the music."

Evidently, instead of there not being any music, it was merely poor music. Mr. Peck must have realized this, too, for in an adjoining column he had an advertisement which promised that for the New Year's party, January 1, 1856, the music would be good. "Unusual pains have been taken to secure the best of music for the occasion," was what he said.

Theatrics were infrequent in Lansing, but even these diversions didn't seem to appeal to the proprietors of the paper.

THEATRE.

"OLD NICK" IS COMING!!

Messrs. NICHOLS and KIMBERLY announce to the citizens of Lansing, that they will give one of their *Laugh-and-Grow-Fat-Entertainments*, in Representatives' Hall, on this (Tuesday) evening, Sept. 9. The 'stock' is composed of the following Gentlemen and Ladies:

T. W. Nichols,	Mrs. Hoyt,
A. J. Kimberly,	Miss Lydia Luse,
Mr. Hoyt,	Madame Viola,
Wm. H. Luse,	

The entertainment will comprise in part,
Theatrical Representations
BALLET DANCING,
Vocal & Instrumental Music.

Admittance, 25 cents; Children, 15 cents.
 Doors open at 7 1-2 o'clock, curtain rises at 8.

The editor probably didn't go to this show, but he later said it was good.

Kimberly's Theater has come and gone; that tip-toe expectation has arisen, grown, culminated, been satisfied, has now waned, and our community has subsided to sober life. The audience was large and appreciative, the auditors satisfied, and

REPUBLICAN OFFICE.

NEW-YEAR'S BALL.

On Tuesday evening, January 1st, 1856, there will be a General New-Year's Ball at the BENTON HOUSE. Unusual pains have been taken to secure the best of music for the occasion.

Supper from 9 P. M. to 3 A. M.

Lansing, December 4, 1855. 32*4

N. B.—As no particular invitation is given, the public, one and all, will please consider the above a hearty request to attend and "join in."

House of Correction.

~~THE~~ will be received by the subseri

—and this is a reproduction of the advertisement in which Mr. Peck said he had "taken unusual pains."

The only positive statement that can be made at this time is that from the report of one theatrical offering carried in the Republican, that nobody "covered" the show.

On September 16, 1858, after the appearance of "Nicholas and Kimberly," whose advertisement is reproduced, the editor of The State Republican said this:

"It is seldom that we are called upon for a theatrical critique. We could experience that novel sensation this week, but 'the things of time and sense' forbid. Suffice to say that Messrs. Nicholas and

Social Party.

*At the Benton House, Thursday
Evening, January 28th, 1858.*

COMMITTEE:

GEO. K. GROVE,
R. C. DART,
E. R. MERRIFIELD,

E. L. WRIGHT,

M. A. CHASE,
A. C. BLODGETT,
S. T. SMITH,

T. D. KNIGHT,
JOHN A. KERR,
H. A. SHAW,
A. C. WINTER.

MUSIC--HILLIKER & NILES.

ROOM MANAGERS:

A. S. BUTLER,

S. D. BINGHAM.

Carriages in Attendance at 6 1-2 o'clock P. M.

Just before the Civil war, when light hearts were more common than they were to be a few years later, the Benton house, then in the zenith of its popularity, was the acknowledged social center of Lansing, with its population of less than 3,000. This party invitation will be a feast for those of the older generations who grow reminiscent at the mention of names such as George K. Grove, the hardware merchant; John A. Kerr, one of the publishers of the old State Republican; Dr. H. B. Shank, father of Dr. Rush J. Shank; the Merrifields, the Darts, George W. Peck, publisher of the Lansing Journal, and a host of others indelibly identified with Lansing's early days



Members of the Grand River Boat club used to make their New Year's calls by boat. Here is one "crew" in the streets of Lansing, socially minded on the festive day, 1878. From stern to stern (or, right to left), they are: Charles A. Toyne, later United States senator from Minnesota; George C. Cooper, Sam B. Taylor, and Mayton J. Buck

the light and extremely fantastic toe was tripped becomingly and approbatorially."

It seemed a practical impossibility to avoid the use of the words, "fantastic" and "tripped," in conjunction with "toe," when alluding to the subject of dances. The editor was ap-

Gov. Bingham

*Solicits the pleasure of your
Company, at the Benton House, Thursday
Evening, January 20th, at seven o'clock.*

1855

Kinsley S. Bingham, republican governor, sent this invitation to John W. Edmonds; his son, James P. Edmonds, preserved it. Political and social bigwigs of Lansing and the state, attended "the governor's ball" each year.

parently able to satisfy his subscribers by merely indicating that he knew certain things were going on, for there was little evidence of any attempt to tell what really happened at any of these public and semi-social gatherings.

THE GRAND RIVER BOAT CLUB

THE municipal power plant, at the foot of East Ottawa street, in the rear of The State Journal building, is located on the site of the Grand River Boat club which was organized in June, 1872, according to recollections of J. P. Edmonds, one of Lansing's foremost historians. This location was made more ideal than it appears to the present local citizen because there was but one dam across the Grand river here and that was at north Lansing.

This organization was probably the most popular and longest enduring athletic and social club ever promoted in Lansing, as it existed over a period of 30 years and admitted to membership nearly every young business and professional man in the city. Each year the club held its annual regatta featured by a number of races. These were always gala affairs and were well attended by Lansing's social elite.

Charter members of the association were: B. H. Berry, William A. Barnard, L. C. Butler, E. C. Chapin, M. J. Buck, W. C. TenEyck, Charles D. Kingsley, H. T. Carpenter, John T. Page, L. S. Hudson, T. W. Wescott, S. S. Olds, A. J. Ketchum and R. J. Shank.

The boathouse at the foot of East Ottawa street was used for many years—until the boating activities of the club were discontinued. Some time after interest in boating had died out, and many other social interests demanded the attention of the decreasing membership, the club was merged in 1913 with the newly organized "Town club" and the old G. R. B. C. ceased to exist.

The Northwestern Amateur Rowing association, which was composed of boat clubs in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin, held an annual regatta in which crews from all parts of the territory competed. Competition was keen and in consequence some good crews were developed. The regatta for 1875 was to be held in August at Toledo, so in the early part of that year the Lansing club joined the association and entered the eight-oared crew in the barge race that was pulled on the Maumee river at Toledo, August 6. The Grand River Boat club crew won the race and Mr. Edmonds has a certificate to show that the course of one mile and return was pulled in 14 minutes 54½ seconds, which was considered excellent time in the barge class.

The eight men composing this championship crew were R. J. Shank, A. H. Whitehead, C. D. Kingsley, Hugh Lyons, William E. Crossett, E. F. Cooley, M. J. Buck, and L. H. Briggs. Mr. Cooley is the only member of the crew who is still living.

The club always took the leading part in promoting local social affairs sponsoring numerous dances, balls, plays, and similar entertainments. The annual club ball was, however, the most important and successful effort. For more than 20 years this ball was given each year, generally during the latter part of December and was usually attended by as

The Grand River Boat Club will give a series of entertainments during the coming season, the opening one of which will be a dancing party, to be held Thursday evening, September twenty-second, to which yourself and 'adies are most cordially invited.

Back in the 1870's, feminine hearts beat faster when they received invitations like this one, to attend a dance of the old Grand River Boat club.

many as 250 couples. On January 1 of each year the young men of the club would make "New Year's calls" on their young women friends, who for convenience would join forces and hold open houses at various homes throughout the city.

For many years the club maintained rooms in the old state building on the site of the present United building. In 1896 it removed to the Stahl block, then just constructed on the corner of North Washington avenue and Shiawassee street. After remaining there for five or six years, headquarters were transferred to the old city hall building on East Michigan avenue, now owned and occupied by the Consumers Power company. This was the club's "last stand" as interest in boating declined and the organization disbanded.

"WE HAD A BIG SHOW—"

"WE HAD a big show,
Here in town a week ago,
Pitched up a tent by the old mill dam.
Ma says "Let's go into the side show,
Just to get a look at the tatoood man,'
There I saw a circus crook,
Who looked sharp at my pocketbook.
Sez he: 'I'll give you two tens for a five,'
But I sez: "Ye dern fule, I be the constabule,
So now you're arrested as sure as you're alive!"

Long before this once popular doggerel was written, Lansing's citizens were preyed upon by the sharpers of Levi J. North's Colossal circus; the games were broken up by "Officer Cowles", who seems to have put an effectual crimp in the circus for all time, in this city.

The little episode in the summer of 1857, in which the editor of the weekly State Republican seemed to glory in the fact that "Officer Cowles" had broken up the games of the "city sharpers" who traveled with the circus, is told in two quaint paragraphs, printed in successive weeks in the old paper.

Levi North's circus was evidently quite an institution in Lansing, every summer, until this incident. The organization advertised well in the weekly, and the people seemed well disposed toward the "dare devil" offerings of the mammoth show.

Thus, in the issue for July 28, 1857, we see this paragraph

announcing that North's circus was about to visit Lansing again. It was an editorial jot, saying:

"North's circus makes its appearance on Friday of this week, 31st. Restrain your impatience and husband your quarters till then. Star-gazers, by securing a favorable position, with their backs to the sun, can obtain without expense or telescope, an almost full view of the ascension and declination of a star of the first magnitude in the scenic firmament—Mademoiselle Castella."

Rufus Hosmer, editor of *The State Republican*, went to the circus, on that Friday night. At least, from what he wrote about it, it would seem so, due to his intimate description of what went on.

It is easy to imagine his pausing in the crowd as his ears caught a stray phrase mouthed by a be-derbied manipulator of the shells . . . "and gents, just to prove that the hand is quicker than the eye . . ." The editor probably stopped in his tracks, interested. "Hm, just for fun, I'm going to watch," he might well have said to himself, as he elbowed his way to the edge of the little three-legged table. "Ah, the gentleman with the square framed glasses—try your luck, sir, there's only three shells and one pea!" smirked the man with the checkered vest and long moustache.

Perhaps Mr. Hosmer laid out a silver coin and pointed to one of the shells after the smooth voiced operator had shuffled the shells about over the small table top for a few seconds. No one—or hardly anyone—ever won from the man with the oily and ingratiating voice. If Mr. Hosmer played, he must have lost. For this is what he wrote about the circus, in the issue for the week following, August 4:

"THAT CIRCUS—With the exception of the dumb brutes was slightly a failure. Poor riding, and an excess of inane, mountebank performances. The usual adjuncts of a circus, however, were of superior excellence. The thimble riggers, dice-throwers, monte-players, &c, &c., were all first class performers, and some of our citizens would have bled from other veins, had not Officer COWLES, with commendable promptness, put a stop to their impartial recreations. A fight or two during the day, and more of the same in the evening, with the 'punishing' of a quantity of bad liquor, and a reactionary movement of like kind, appropriately decorated and wound up the day."

Perhaps he went into the circus tent, did Mr. Hosmer, and perhaps, again, he didn't after his little session with the man with the shells. But certain it seems, that as he left the lot he

heard, fading into distance, the monotonous voice of the shell man as he cooed to his credulous victims: "All you got to do, gents, is to keep your eye on the shell over the pea . . . I don't raise 'em off the top of a little green table . . . I never lift a one . . . Just switch 'em round . . . just to show you that the hand is quicker than the eye . . ."

LANSING WOMAN'S CLUB

THE oldest organized women's club in the city is the Lansing Woman's club, which was founded on March 18, 1874. On the afternoon of that day about a dozen women met at the home of Mrs. Ephraim Longyear, on West Main street, for the purpose of furnishing the stimulus needed by mothers and busy housewives to keep abreast with the stream of duty and progress.

Meetings were held on Friday afternoon each week, in charge of four committees—art and literature, science, history, and education. Each committee was responsible for one meeting each month.

First members of this group included Mrs. H. A. Tenney, Mrs. E. Longyear, Mrs. Sophie H. Knight, Mrs. O. A. Jenison, sr., Mrs. Lida J. Wells, Mrs. Alice B. Seager, Mrs. Lozie Paddock, Mrs. Fannie Baker, Mrs. E. L. Westcott, Mrs. N. B. Jones, Mrs. Fannie Cowles, Mrs. A. J. Lanterman, Mrs. D. L. Case, Mrs. E. M. Pratt, Mrs. E. C. Smith, Mrs. P. P. Kerr, Mrs. Frank D. Pratt, Miss Ella Crosby, Mrs. J. B. Porter, Miss Ann E. Shank, Mrs. Fanny A. Mead, Miss Gertrude M. Berry, Miss Carrie W. Holmes, Mrs. E. C. Stebbins, and Mrs. M. W. Howard.

First officers elected were: Mrs. Clara Avery, of Detroit, president; Mrs. N. B. Jones, vice president; Mrs. Lorain Innmen, of Grand Rapids, secretary; Mrs. Kate E. Ward, recording secretary; Mrs. Martha E. Root, treasurer.

A few subjects as an indication of the character of those chosen during the first year of the club follow: "Emund Spencer," "The Art of Photography," "Early History of Electricity," "The History of Banking to a Recent Date," "Should American Youth Be Educated Abroad." Besides papers on these disconnected themes, news letters, items of scientific interest, and 15 minute conversations on topics of the day, filled the time of the sessions of the first year.

The purpose of the organization was to study "the history, literature and art of all ages," and "to promote order, har-

mony, system and the study of parliamentary law," and members spent much time in earnest study and discussion of the topics at the meetings. The original purpose has been retained through the many years since the organization of the club, and the same interest is manifested in the programs by the present members as in former years.



Forty years ago members of the Lansing Bicycle club posed for this picture just before one of their regular Sunday rides. Complete identification is difficult, but many men, well known today, were in the picture. From left to right: Edwyn A. Bowd, Lansing architect; then three in succession unknown; Roy Jones, with the cap; Ray B. Miller; O. A. Jenison; leaning toward the right is Lewis Waters, now dead; the next man is not recalled; next to him, however, is Burr Morgan, with his daughter, Grace M., now Mrs. Arthur E. Hurd, riding the handlebars; the next two are unidentified, but Charles M. Humphrey, chin just over his handlebars, is next, and the man on the extreme left is Fred Moliter, now of Los Angeles



Group picture of 10 former mayors of Lansing, taken in January, 1910, when they attended the funeral of Dr. W. H. Haze, also a former mayor. Seated, left to right are: A. A. Wilbur, John Robson, Joseph E. Warner, Russel C. Osterlander, and Hugh Lyons; standing, left to right, are: Charles Davis, John F. Crotty, Frank Johnson, William Donovan and Arthur O. Bement. The only survivor, in addition to Mr. Crotty, is Mr. Donovan.

LANSING EMERGES

EARLY POPULATION FIGURES

LANSING was never a village. This apparent impossibility is easily explained by the fact that the "city" remained a part of Lansing township, without incorporation, until the legislature, in 1859, conferred the status of cityhood on Lansing. The city, as well as Ingham county, had, in the decade from 1850 to 1860, shown impressive growth and increase in assessed valuation.

The State Republican for September 30, 1856, printed the statement of Whitney Jones, auditor general, relative to the assessed valuation of property in the county, its population, and other statistics. The population of the county, as of June 1, 1850, was given at 8,597. This was two years after the capitol was built here, and people weren't yet over their nervousness that it wouldn't be kept here. (As a matter of fact, not until the cornerstone of the present capitol was laid, in 1873, did everyone in this section finally breathe sighs of relief at the final and seemingly irrevocable settlement of this question.)

The real and personal property valuation of the county, in 1851, was equalized at \$588,387. This had been nearly tripled, by 1853, when the figure was placed at \$1,853,000. The town of Lansing, and the county seat at Mason were making great strides then.

By 1854 the population of Ingham county had attained 11,222, and two years later, the equalized valuation of real and personal property had risen to \$2,314,000. This was the year after The State Republican was founded, and in the years

that followed, growth was what would be expected to accrue to any county in which the capitol of a growing state was located.

Lansing's population was estimated at 4,000 by *The State Republican* in its issue of December 7, 1858, and the additional information was offered that there were "two flour mills, a saw mill and an iron foundry" in the place at that time. Apparently the presence of the state capitol was taken for granted.

One of the earliest voices to be raised in the discussion of the incorporation of Lansing as a city was that of *The State Republican*, which in its edition of December 23, 1856, editorialized on the subject, "Shall Lansing Be Incorporated?" The editorial debated the "expediency of applying to the legislature during the coming session, for an act of incorporation of the village."

That *The State Republican* had slightly over-estimated the population of Lansing in 1858, however, is indicated by figures compiled by the Michigan Historical association, in Cowles' history, "Past and Present, Ingham County," published in 1904. There is some disparity between the tables in this book, and those of the auditor general, as published by the old *State Republican*.

The latter figures show that in 1854, Lansing township, Ingham county, was credited with a population of 1,556. There was no separate notation for Lansing's population until the first census year following the incorporation of the city. In 1860, Lansing was listed as having a population of 3,047. The population proper was left with the balance of the inhabitants, who numbered 496. Lansing brooded in its mud for years after the coming of the capitol.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN 1855

WHEN Lansing was hardly a village—despite the presence of the temporary capitol—when Detroit's population was a mere 40,000, and when Grand Rapids was about as big as Mason is now, with some 6,000 inhabitants, *The State Republican*, immediate predecessor of *The State Journal*, was first published, in 1855.

That the decade of 1850 to 1860 was one of tremendous importance for this state, is shown by the jump in population figures for this period. The inhabitants of the state were computed by the United States census bureau, to number 379,000,

in 1850. The growth in the next 10 years had almost doubled that figure, to approximate 750,000.

Thus it was that The State Republican was founded at a happily conceived time; when the state and county were thrusting ahead, and when the public officials of that time were looming increasingly prominent in the minds of the people, because of the growing importance of their duties.

There are many in Lansing, and in other cities and towns served by The State Journal, whose fathers and grandfathers were associated with the government of this county from its very earliest days of organization. There are descendants in Lansing today whose antecedents reach back to 1838, when county officials were first elected. In 1840, Ingham county had a population of only 2,401, for whom regularly authorized and elected officials functioned.

When 1855 had rolled around, and a consciousness of increasing importance had set in, because of the size of the settlements, the county officials who took office that year were: William H. Chapman, judge of probate; Perry Henderson, sheriff; Philip McKernan, county clerk; William Woodhouse, register of deeds; Franklin LaRue, treasurer; Orlando M. Barnes, prosecuting attorney; Griffin Paddock, circuit court commissioner; Anson Jackson, surveyor; Mason Branch and Elihu Elwood, coroners.

A City in '59

Thus went the affairs of what was to be Lansing, until February 15, 1859, when the city was incorporated, by an act of the state legislature. The city was divided into three wards, and the first city officials were elected. Chief among them was the mayor, of course, and the first name to appear on the long list of Lansing's mayors is that of Hiram H. Smith, elected for a term of one year.

Associated with the election of Lansing's first mayor is the governor of the state who presided in the capital city before it was actually a city. The state capitol was located, by the constitution of 1835, in Detroit, where it remained until moved to Lansing, in 1847. Thus, in 1859, it was believed, because of the growth and increasing political importance of the area, that city organization would be suitable and proper.

The governor, Kinsley S. Bingham, Michigan's eighth executive, a republican, was supported in his two terms of office, from January 3, 1855, to January 5, 1859, by these men:

George A. Coe, lieutenant governor; John McKinney,

secretary of state; Silas M. Holmes, state treasurer; Whitney Jones, auditor general; Seymour B. Treadwell, commissioner of the state land office; Jacob M. Howard, attorney general; Ira Mayhew, superintendent of public instruction; Rodney R. Gibson, deputy secretary of state; Charles W. Butler, deputy auditor general; Theodore Hunter, deputy state treasurer; Jerome M. Treadwell, deputy commissioner of state land offices; Frederick W. Curtenius, adjutant general; DeWitt Clinton Leach, state librarian.

Members of Michigan's judiciary, in 1855, were: Sanford M. Green, chief justice of the supreme court; Charles W. Whipple, Abner Pratt, Warner Wing, Joseph T. Copeland, George Martin, David Johnson and Samuel T. Douglass were the associate justices of the state supreme court. Daniel Goodwin was district judge of the upper peninsula and George O. Gibbs was reporter for the supreme court.

The relation of Michigan's political leaders, to those who were serving the nation at Washington, was made intimate, in 1855, because of the fact that the governor of Michigan just previous, Robert McClelland, was at that time on the cabinet of the democratic president, Franklin Pierce. Mr. McClelland was secretary of the interior.

Michigan's seventh governor, elected to serve for the two-year term from 1851 to 1853, was re-elected for his second term from which he resigned March 7, 1853, to take the cabinet position offered to him by the president. Governor McClelland was succeeded by Andrew Parsons, lieutenant governor and acting governor. Parsons served in this capacity until 1855, when Governor Bingham was elected.

LANSING'S FIRST COUNCIL MEETING

LANSING'S first city council met on the night of May 2, 1859, in a room above Thayer's drug store which occupied a small, two-story frame building on the southwest corner of North Washington avenue and West Ottawa street. A Woolworth store stands on this site today. This was almost seventy-one years ago, shortly after Lansing had arisen to the dignity of a city, its incorporation having been sanctioned by an act of legislature that year, 12 years after the capitol was moved from Detroit to Lansing. The population of the city was then less than 3,000.

The State Republican for April 14, 1909, marking the 50th anniversary of Lansing's incorporation, carried the facts

of this story. Lansing became a city by an act signed and approved April 15, 1859. While this issue of The State Republican is safely in the files of its successor, The State Journal, Miss Mary E. Buck loaned her own copy of this paper, for use in preparation of the 75th anniversary edition.

The proceedings of this first meeting, on file in the city hall today, would be hard to decipher. "S's" are written like "F's," and the minutes are in the handwriting of City Clerk J. G. Ramsdell, on paper now yellow with years.

Hiram H. Smith, the first mayor of the city, presided. Aldermen were Allen R. Burr, Mathew Elder, William H. Haze, John A. Kerr, S. D. Newbro, W. H. Pinckney and Ephraim Longyear, every name prominent in Lansing's early history.

William H. Haze, father of Dr. Harry A. Haze, Lansing physician practicing today, was a doctor himself, with a legislative career as background of his history. He was member of four legislatures, 1857 and 1858, as representative of the fifth district of Oakland county, when he lived in Farmington; and in 1863 and 1864, as representative from Ingham county.

John A. Kerr, who was elected second mayor of Lansing, was one of the firm of "Hosmer and Kerr," publishers of The State Republican. S. D. Newbro was a large figure in north Lansing. Ephraim Longyear was a pioneer banker of this city.

The First Motion

The first motion ever made by the council is one that is in operation today: That meetings should be held every Monday night, at 7:30 o'clock. There was a great volume of business to be accomplished by Lansing's first council. Committees were appointed, as well as city officers. James P. Baker was designated city marshal. Alderman Kerr moved that the city secure the services of a city attorney "getting the best figure the council could for his advice." This motion carried.

The election of city officers was set for the following Thursday evening, but was delayed one day. The result, however, was that James Turner was elected city auditor; Dr. J. B. Hull, city physician; Thomas G. Mitchell and Daniel Mevis, city criers. Members of a "city watch," seemingly the forerunner of the modern city police department, were elected also. There were four on the "force" or "watch."

Interesting is the election of city criers. The State Republican for 1909 wondered what their jobs might have been;

Daniel Mevis, in a book he wrote in 1911, said that he used to pace along Washington avenue, ringing a bell lustily, calling attention to auction sales. This must have been a side line with the city crier, for it doesn't sound very official.

The members of the watch, according to the old State Republican, 'had their troubles, for although Lansing's population was small, it had 10 lager beer and 'oyster' saloons, which paid an annual license of \$5 each for the privilege of doing business. But although \$445 less than that which is now required, \$5 in those days was some money.' Evidently members of the watch were to cool brows fevered in "oyster" saloons of the village.

Dr. Haze, in 1909, contributed some interesting comments on early meetings of the city council. The first one was composed of republicans (or whigs) and democrats, who had been elected to office after openly buying votes under each other's noses.

Village battles over the propriety of cattle and hogs running through the streets were reflected in aldermanic motions of 1859, Dr. Haze, now dead, recalled in 1909. One motion provided that this should be stopped at once, and that the mayor and the recorder should catch all the stray animals running about.

The grunt of pigs settling in the rich mud of West Ottawa street for the night was brought into the council rooms by the warm summer night air at early meetings, and this was mingled with the dismal tinkle of cow bells, the bearers of which were straying aimlessly about the dark streets after having been milked and turned loose to graze for the night.

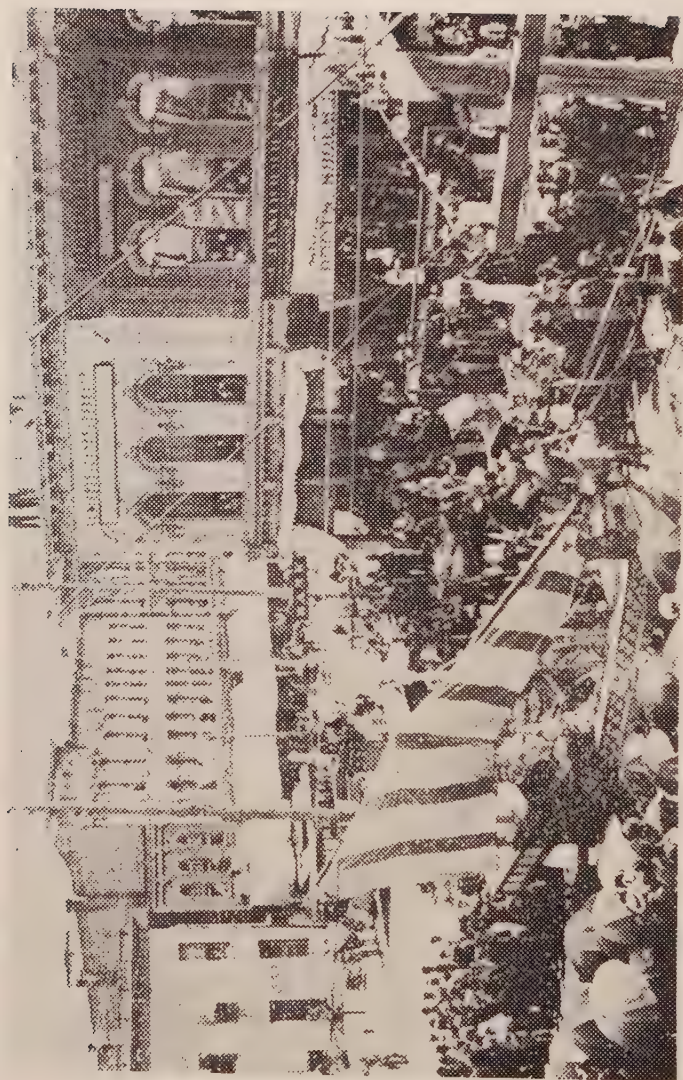
Such was the background of the city government of Lansing, as recalled by the last survivor of the first council.

MAYORS AND GOVERNORS FOR 75 YEARS

FOR a quick look back over the shoulder of time across the distance of 75 years, measured in terms of municipal and state history, as personified by the names of the executives, here is a list showing those who have held those offices. Here are Lansing's mayors. How many did you know? How many have you heard of? Hiram H. Smith, 1859; John A. Kerr, 1860; William H. Chapman, 1861-62; Ira H. Batholomew, 1863-64-65; William H. Haze, 1866; George H. Peck, 1867; Cyrus Hewitt, 1868-69; Solomon W. Wright, 1870; John Robson, 1871; John S. Tooker, 1872-73; Daniel W. Buck,



The yard in front of this beautiful residence is now occupied by the Peoples State Savings bank, southwest corner of South Washington avenue and West Kalamazoo street. It was originally the home of Edwin H. Porter, brother of J. B. Porter, who was secretary of state under the war governor, Austin Blair. J. B. Porter was the father of the present "Ed" Porter. This house was later the residence of Dr. Hayden who died there. The residence was one of the most aristocratic in the city



A gala scene from Lansing's yesterdays, even if the nature of the celebration isn't known now. The view, taken from the old Grove and Whitney building, shows the floats of a parade. Note the umbrellas for protection from the sun

1874-75; John S. Tooker, 1876; Orlando M. Barnes, 1877; Joseph E. Warner, 1878; William VanBuren, 1879-80; John Robson, 1881; Orlando F. Barnes, 1882-83; William Donovan, 1884-85; Daniel W. Buck, 1886; Jacob F. Schulz, 1887; John Crotty, 1888; James M. Turner, 1889; Frank B. Johnson, 1890-91; A. O. Bement, 1892-93; Alroy A. Wilbur, 1894; James M. Turner, 1895; Russell C. Ostrander, 1896; Charles J. Davis, 1897-98-99; James F. Hammell, 1900-01-02-03; Hugh Lyons, 1904-05-06-07; John S. Bennett, 1908-09-10-11; J. G. Reutter, 1912-13-14-15-16-17; Jacob W. Ferle, 1918-19; Benjamin A. Kyes, 1920-21; Jacob W. Ferle, 1922 to November 13, 1922, (died); Silas S. Main, president of city council, acting mayor until April, 1923; Alfred H. Doughty, April 1923-24-25-26. [Note: city officials take office January 1, from Doughty's second term; charter changed.] Laird J. Troyer, 1927-28; 1929—.

The list of Michigan's governors from 1855 to the present day contains but a small part of the chief executives, if one is to include the foreign military governors, and the governors of the territories which were carved from the original Michigan territory, which list begins with the imposing names of M. Chauvin, Commander de Chastes and M. De Monts, whose joint terms extended from 1603 to 1612, while Michigan was governed by French-Canadians. Governors of Michigan territory, after Gen. Lewis Cass had raised the American flag at Sault Ste. Marie, date from 1813-1835, when the state was organized, just previous to admission to the Union.

Seven governors preceded Kinsley S. Bingham, between 1835, when a state constitution was adopted, until his taking that office, in 1855.

Here is the procession of state executives from 1855 to the present day:

Kinsley S. Bingham, 1855-56, 57-58; Moses Wisner, 1859-60; Austin Blair, 1861-62, 63-64; Henry P. Crapo, 1865-66, 67-68; Henry P. Baldwin, 1869-70, 71-72; John J. Bagley, 1873-74, 75-76; Charles M. Croswell, 1877-78, 79-80; David H. Jerome, 1881-82; Josiah W. Begole, 1883-84; Russell A. Alger, 1885-86; Cyrus G. Luce, 1887-88, 89-90; Edwin B. Winans, 1891-92; John T. Rich, 1893-94, 95-96; Hazen S. Pingree, 1897-98, 99-1900; Aaron T. Bliss, 1901-02, 03-04; Fred M. Warner, 1905-06, 07-08, 09-10; Chase S. Osborn, 1911-12; Woodbridge N. Ferris, 1913-14, 15-16; Albert E. Sleeper, 1917-18, 19-20; Alex J. Groesbeck, 1921-22, 23-24, 25-26; Fred W. Green, 1927-28, 29—.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN 1930

THIS is a list of those men and women who, by election or appointment, were serving the nation, state, county and township, in political office, on January 1, 1930.

The officials of the federal government named below are in office as the result of the election of November 6, 1928, when the republican presidential candidate was victorious at the polls. The president chosen, and the cabinet he selected to take office with him on March 4, 1929, follow:

Herbert Clark Hoover	President
Charles H. Curtis	Vice President
Henry L. Stimson	Secretary of State
Andrew W. Mellon	Secretary of Treasury
*Patrick Jay Hurley	Secretary of War
William D. Mitchell	Attorney General
Walter F. Brown	Postmaster General
Charles Francis Adams	Secretary of Navy
Ray Lyman Wilbur	Secretary of Interior
Arthur M. Hyde	Secretary of Agriculture
Robert P. Lamont	Secretary of Commerce
James J. Davis	Secretary of Labor

The Supreme Court

†William Howard Taft

Chief Justice

Associate justices:

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Willis VanDeventer

James Clark Reynolds

Louis Dembitz Brandeis

George Sutherland

Pierce Butler

†Edward Terry Sanford

Harlan Fiske Stone

The State of Michigan

Fred W. Green

Governor

Luren D. Dickinson

Lieutenant Governor

John S. Haggerty

Secretary of State

*Secretary Hurley was appointed December 6, to take the place made vacant by the death, on November 18, of Secretary James W. Good.

†Charles Evans Hughes was appointed chief justice on February 3, 1930, on which date Mr. Taft resigned because of ill-health. Mr. Taft and Justice Sanford both died on the same date, March 8; the president nominated John W. Parker to fill the latter vacancy.

Frank D. McKay.....	State Treasurer
Oramel B. Fuller.....	Auditor General
Wilber M. Brucker.....	Attorney General
Webster H. Pearce.....	Superintendent of Public Instruction
Grover C. Dillman.....	State Highway Commissioner

The Supreme Court

Walter H. North
 William W. Potter
 Louis H. Fead
 Henry M. Butzel
 Howard Wiest
 George M. Clark
 John S. McDonald
 Nelson Sharpe

Michigan representatives in the 71st congress:

James Couzens, Detroit, and Arthur H. Vandenberg,
 Grand Rapids, senators.

Members of the house of representatives:

Robert H. Clancy, Detroit; Earl C. Michener, Adrian;
 Joseph L. Hooper, Battle Creek; John C. Ketcham, Hastings;
 Carl E. Mapes, Grand Rapids; Grant M. Hudson, East Lan-
 sing; Louis C. Crampton, Lapeer; Bird J. Vincent, Saginaw;
 James C. McLaughlin, Muskegon; Roy O. Woodruff, Bay City;
 Frank P. Bohn, Newberry; W. Frank James, Hancock; Clar-
 ence J. McLeod, Detroit.

Officials of the state of Michigan: George F. Mackenzie,
 chairman of securities commission; Charles D. Livingston,
 commissioner of insurance; Guy L. Kiefer, commissioner of
 public health; Rudolph E. Reichert, commissioner of banking;
 Oscar G. Olander, commissioner of public safety; Arthur D.
 Wood, commissioner of pardons and paroles; Herbert E. Pow-
 ell, commissioner of agriculture; George R. Hogarth, director
 of conservation; Charles W. Foster, secretary of the state ad-
 ministrative board; Sidney A. Schulte, deputy secretary of
 state; Emerson R. Boyles, deputy attorney general; Hoyt
 Woodman, deputy state treasurer; George L. Hauser, deputy
 auditor general; C. Lloyd Goodrich, deputy superintendent of
 public instruction; Victor R. Burton, deputy commissioner of
 highway department; Frank F. Rogers, consulting engineer,
 former commissioner of highways; Horace B. Corell, deputy
 commissioner of insurance; Don M. Griswold, deputy commis-
 sioner of public health; E. C. Kaye, deputy commissioner of
 banking; Dennis E. Alward, secretary of the state senate;
 Myles F. Gray, clerk of the state house of representatives;

Grove M. Rouse, sergeant at arms of the senate; Frank B. Clemmens, sergeant at arms of the house of representatives; Edward D. Rich, state sanitary engineer; Richard A. Smith, state geologist; Mrs. Mary E. Frankhauser, state librarian; B. J. Killham, state veterinarian; Floyd A. Rowe, state director of physical training; James Brown, chairman, state board of athletic control.

City of Lansing

Laird J. Troyer, mayor; J. Ernest Converse, city attorney; Bertha Ray, city clerk. Members of the city council who were sworn into office January 13, the second Monday of the month, as the result of the elections held here on Tuesday, November 5, are: 1st ward—Abraham J. Smith, Martin A. Harper; 2nd ward—Clarence E. Rogers, William E. Trager; 3rd ward—William McKale, Leo J. Smith; 4th ward—C. E. Dunham, George Hagamier; 5th ward—Fred L. Kircher, John A. Mutz; 6th ward—Harold H. Campbell, Frank H. Thoman; 7th ward—Max A. Templeton, William L. McComb; 8th ward—Arthur H. Phillips, Roswell H. Larabee. Other city officers who continued in office January 1 are Robert E. Sanderson, comptroller; Lois Chase, treasurer; John B. McClellan, justice of the peace; Ernest G. Eddy, engineer; H. Lee Bancroft, forester; Hugo R. Delfs, chief of fire department; Alfred Seymour, chief of police; John F. O'Brien, captain of police; A. M. Wheaton, acting superintendent of the department of public works—(On February 10, Mayor Troyer appointed E. D. Klock as superintendent of this department. Mr. Wheaton temporarily filled the vacancy caused by the death of Alfred Winegar, who died in office in November, 1929); S. Rowland Hill, health officer; Edgar J. Hermes, city physician; J. H. Larabee, president of the board of health; Alvin S. Potter, superintendent of garbage department; Julius J. Cook, sealer of weights and measures; Charles J. Fox, plumbing and building inspector; M. M. Caldwell, assistant building inspector; Edward P. Link, electrical inspector; Warren S. Robbins, sanitary and food inspector; Asa E. Vandewalker, market and weighmaster; Orin A. Cook, director of welfare; Frank J. Christopher, David E. Lord, Lyle B. Austin, assessors; Albert F. Witt, Edward S. Clark, constables.

Ingham County

Leland W. Carr, Charles B. Collingwood, circuit judges; Louis B. McArthur, judge of probate; Hugh W. Silsby, sheriff; John Wendell Bird, prosecuting attorney; C. Ross Hilliard,

clerk; Flora G. Dewey, deputy clerk; Herbert R. Bullen, treasurer; Mrs. Susan B. Leonard, register of deeds; Bert E. Neller, W. Ray Gorsline, coroners; William S. Cameron, Carl H. McLean, circuit court commissioners; Albert N. Bateman, surveyor; Lloyd R. Doane, drain commissioner; Edward T. Elliott, Lee T. Lasenby, Arthur H. Phillips, road commissioners; Fred E. Searl, commissioner of schools.

Lansing Township

Roy B. Moore, supervisor; Herbert W. Church, clerk; Mrs. C. A. Baske, treasurer; Horace I. Cooledge, highway commissioner, William Goulding, Earl Christian, J. Arthur Pino, Carl Hector, justices of peace.

HISTORY OF THE STATE SEAL AND FLAG

THE first of the symbolic accoutrements of statehood which Michigan acquired was the "Great Seal," which was first evolved in 1835. The flag of the state first came into being in 1837. A song for the state was first written in 1862, followed in 1897, by the more sentimental state flower, which was chosen by the legislature of that year. In 1911, the flag of the state was legislated into its present design, and the coat-of-arms of Michigan was adopted officially.

These evidences of the finer sentimentalities which are found in all political subdivisions, are things of which the average citizen hears little, and frequently cares less. The state flag shows the state seal in the center, and the coat-of-arms is formed simply by omitting the outer border of the state seal.

To Mrs. Marie Ferry, curator of the Michigan Pioneer and Historical collection, in the state museum at Lansing, in the state office building, goes the credit for the inspiration which resulted in the selection of the apple blossom as the state flower by legislative act approved April 28, 1897. The act was simple; she merely broke off a small bough of an apple tree heavy with the fragrant blossoms, and laid it on the desk of an influential legislator with the suggestion of its appropriateness as the state flower.

The great seal, presented to the state-to-be by Lewis Cass, in 1835, was timed in its acceptance by the constitutional convention when the territory, on the verge of statehood, had a population of slightly more than 87,000 by the last census. Michigan was admitted to the Union in 1837, and

preparations were being made in 1835 for application for this admission.

The state seal bears the Latin words: "Si Quaeris Peninsulam Amoenam Circumspice," the free translation of which is: "If you seek a beautiful peninsula, look about you." This motto of the state is thought to have been suggested to Gov. Lewis Cass by the inscription in St. Paul's cathedral, London, over the crypt of Christopher Wren, architect: "Lector, Si Monumentum Quaeris, Circumspice." It means: "Reader, if thou seekest his monument, look around." The word "Tuebor" on the shield between the elk and the moose means, "I will defend."

In a discussion of the state flag, the Michigan Historical commission notes that on February 22, 1837, the first state flag came into existence when Gov. Stevens T. Mason, first governor of Michigan (under the constitution of 1835) presented a flag to the "Brady Guard" at Detroit. It was the first flag bearing the state coat-of-arms. In 1865, the state flag was adopted, with numerous changes from the first "Brady Guard" flag, and in 1911, some further changes were made in the design, the result being the present state flag.

"Michigan, My Michigan," the state song, bears the same title which the original state song, of Civil war days, did. Sung to the well known tune, "O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum," (as is "Maryland, My Maryland"), the song was composed by Miss Winifred Lee Brent, later Mrs. Henry F. Loyster of Detroit. The occasion which evoked the composition was the battle of Fredericksburg, in 1862. The song was first published in the old Detroit Tribune.

But in 1902, Douglas Malloch, now of Chicago, but then of Muskegon, composed the new state song which was deemed more appropriate in peace times than was the first one, born of war.



This is the old "Pearl," or Christian Breisch mill, long a landmark in north Lansing. Erected in 1848, it was pulled down in 1927. It stood on the northwest corner of Turner street and East Grand River avenue. It was Lansing's first grist mill



Group of historic photographs showing some of Lansing's earlier churches, identified on the opposite page

Upper left shows the first Pilgrim Congregational church, in a frame structure used first as a dwelling, and for a few years beginning in 1851, as the fifth ward school. The school bell later called the congregation to Sunday services. The building was on the east side of South Cedar street, a little south of East Main street. Below is the old Universalist church, erected in 1863, on the southeast corner of East Allegan street and South Grand avenue, where the fire department telegraph building is now. The church building was abandoned in 1897. The bottom picture on the left side is the Plymouth Congregational church, erected in 1876 on the southeast corner of Townsend and West Allegan streets.

Upper right shows the old First Presbyterian church, built in 1852 on the southwest corner of North Washington avenue and West Genesee street. The building just below, with the stubby spire, is the old First Baptist church, erected in 1892, on the southwest corner of North Capitol avenue and West Ionia street, the site of the present First Baptist church.

The picture at lower right shows a view of the Central Methodist church, even before the city hall, now diagonally across the corner, was built. The church was then, as it is now, located on the northwest corner of North Capitol avenue and West Ottawa street. In the extreme left of the picture is the steeple of the original St. Paul's Episcopal church, which building is now the guild-hall for the church which now stands on the lot next west, on the northeast corner of West Ottawa street and Seymour avenue.



EARLY HISTORICAL INCIDENTS

THE SMOKY FALL OF 1856

LANSING once suffered from a fog, stories of which seem to have rivaled the best told of London, Eng., but as this was in the fall of 1856, few living now will recall the time. But many have heard their fathers tell of it—the autumn of that year was known, for generations, as the “smoky fall.” The summer before had brought a severe drought, followed by brush fires all over this section of the state. These arose from the carelessness of farmers who had allowed fires to spread while they were clearing their land of undergrowth. The marshes and woods of all central Michigan were burning and smouldering, according to Fuller’s “Historic Michigan.”

Never anything but sober and precise, when this same history reports that people were lost, at times, right in Lansing, because of the heavy pall of smoke on the streets of the village, it sounds like reliable testimony.

“Cows that were allowed to pasture on unfenced lands entered enclosed gardens and foraged upon cabbages and late vegetables without being seen or driven out,” the account reads. This may mean that the cows could see better than the people, but be that as it may, realization of the situation makes easy the appreciation of a paragraph in the old State Republican which was published about that time. Inasmuch as no one was moving fast enough to be hurt in case of collision, the smoke, or “fog” as it was also called, could hardly be termed a menace but it was certainly a nuisance.

"Clouds of smoke encompass us by day," wrote Herman E. Hascall, publisher and acting editor, in his edition of October 14, 1856, "and thousands of fires by night," he continued. "At the present writing, 4 p. m., the air is loaded with smoke, and people across the street, though prominent physically and socially, can scarcely be distinguished. The weather has been extremely dry, and stumps, undergrowth, grass, even earth, are in a highly combustible state. In some instances, fires in the woods are fought late at night, to prevent destruction of valuable property. Marshes in the vicinity of DeWitt are burning—the soil itself furnishing food for the destroying element.

Fall Rains Finally Came

"Urchins smoke cigars with impunity under the very eyes of tobacco-hating guardians. Nature has gotten up for the benefit of our citizens a grand mosquito-annihilating 'smudge,' though too late in the season for us to be much benefitted. Men yearn for the deluge, provided it would come in annual installments—say for this year, four days and four nights. Our lachrymal duct overflows already and we hesitate to go on."

Fall rains eventually rescued Lansingites, however, cleared the air, and probably revived the small urchins, who were not satisfied with external smoke.

WOODEN SIDEWALKS IN 1855

THAT The State Republican early took the city fathers to task for any civic laxness which threatened the welfare of the citizens, and that the paper often got results from its campaigns, is shown vividly and humorously by three short paragraphs which appeared in the old newspaper on three successive weeks late in the fall of 1858.

The complaint of The State Republican was that the plank sidewalk along the west side of North Washington avenue was falling to pieces, and that it was a menace to the safety of the people who used that walk.

Even before the three related paragraphs, one appeared on May 11, the same year, calling attention to the condition in a mild sort of way. This was what was said on May 11:

"SIDEWALKS—If our town fathers will call at the Benton House, and get a good dinner, then put on their leather spec's, and go a mile north, they will somewhere find a broken plank in the sidewalk. And when they find it, they may possibly think it best to repair the same, before the town has



Before the Civil war the corner of North Grand avenue and East Ottawa street looked like this. The three-story building is the Thoman mill, standing on the same site today, directly west across the street from The State Journal offices. The house was occupied by A. R. Thayer, druggist



Charles Mead, son of James I. Mead, Lansing pioneer, drew pen sketches of Lansing in the 1870's. This is one of them, showing the west side of Washington avenue, from Ottawa street south, in the days when Lansing's walks were of planks

somebody's broken leg to pay for. If they do not, we will conclude we are an enterprising people."

But later in the year, one dangerous section had developed in what is now the 200 block of North Washington avenue, just north of where the Tussing building now stands, on the northwest corner of North Washington avenue and West Ottawa street.

Torrent on Main Street

In those days, a fair sized stream rushed across North Washington avenue, and emptied into Grand river. Today it is diverted, underground, and flows out, for the most part, through the sewer mouth at the foot of West Ottawa street. But the Washington avenue plank sidewalk was built over this stream, in 1858, and its deterioration was regarded with proper concern by the editor of *The State Republican*, who, on November 30, published this suggestion:

"AN IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTION—We would suggest to persons living below Cowles' store, on the west side of the street, to take up what pretends to be the remains of the sidewalk, across the ravine, and by compelling foot passengers to keep the middle of the road, thus insure them against risk of breaking their necks. The walk is worse where the fall to the ground is the greatest."

It might be mentioned parenthetically that "Uncle Dan" Mevis, author of "*Pioneer Recollections*" quoted extensively in this edition, tells of fishing on the grassy banks of this stream, in the 1840's, on the site of the Tussing building.

The location of Cowles' store in 1858 was changed by the time another 10 years passed, however, for a sketch of 1868 reproduced in this edition, shows F. M. Cowles to have his store in the 100 block on North Washington avenue, west side. This observation is made to explain the apparent contradiction between the location given the store in this story and that given it by a sketch made 10 years later.

Apparently some of the readers of *The State Republican* acted on the advice about going out into the street, but one of them came to grief, in the fashion told on the week following, by the *Republican* for December 7, which said:

"OUT OF THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE—We advised foot passengers to leave the sidewalk and take the road, after going as far north as Cowles' store. A worthy Deputy in one of the state departments undertook to follow our advice and found himself in the culvert, up to his neck,

one night last week. Our advice now is, do not go north of Cowles' store at all."

Perhaps one reason for the repair of the sidewalk during the ensuing week was the fact that it was a state official who "found himself in the culvert, up to his neck," on a winter's night, but be that as it may, the December 14 issue of *The State Republican*, carried this brief paragraph:

"FIXED AT LAST—'Tis a 'fixed fact' that the sidewalk near Cowles' store is 'fixed' at last—if you don't believe it, go and see."

Just why the editor should impugn his own veracity by inviting inspection of the sidewalk, in case the news was hardly credible, it is hard to say, unless he wished to indicate that the information was so preposterous as to invite speculation, no matter who published it.

FOURTH OF JULY, 1855

THERE is something in the nature of a mystery concerning Lansing's first celebration of the Fourth of July to be recorded by *The State Republican*, in the year of its origin, 1855. That there were elaborate preparations for the day, no one can deny, from the evidence which is ample and conclusive. As to the outcome of the preparations of the day, or more particularly, what happened to the big public dinner which was set before everyone in the city who had 50 cents, that is something quite different.

The files of *The State Republican* are eloquent about what was going to happen, and this information is interesting to this day, because of the prominence of the men who were in charge of the program. The old weekly, however, passed up the job of describing the actual celebration in its edition following the Fourth, and let the whole story go with this, in its July 10, 1855, issue:

"THE FOURTH—This day passed off very pleasantly indeed. We never attended a 'celebration' where all parts were so well performed. We should like to tell our readers all about it, but there's no use trying. The thing can't be done. And there's no necessity for doing it because everybody was here and participated in the festivities of the occasion."

Had to Feed Indians

Now this would have been quite all right, and nothing would have been suspected, had not the files of *The State*

Journal for about 10 years back revealed an interview with one of the men who was present at that Fourth of July dinner—in fact he was one of the promoters who had hoped to turn an honest penny by “putting on a dinner” at half a dollar a head.

Myron Green, the man interviewed by The State Journal some years ago—Glenn K. Stimson, present editorial writer, was the interviewer, by the way—said that Chief John Okemos and his perennially hungry tribe showed up on the scene, demanded to be fed, and would not be denied. “We couldn’t do a thing but feed ‘em,” Mr. Green said, continuing, “and so, when we had finished, we found ourselves \$100 in the hole on our undertaking that had begun so auspiciously.”

The editor who “covered” the story of the dinner was lazy, according to standards of today, of course. The fact that “everybody was there,” would only call for more elaborate treatment editors of today know, for, generally speaking, readers will read of something in which they themselves participated, faster than they will something they didn’t see. However that may be, it would seem that if Okemos did raid the community pantry in the manner described, The State Republican was derelict in its mission for not saying something about it. The account given indicated that everything had been according to schedule.

Feasted on Capitol Lawn

Myron Green, an enterprising man who had come to Lansing in 1854, had joined forces with Christopher Columbus Darling, proprietor of the Columbus house, situated where the Strand theater is today, and had made the proposition to “throw the feed” for the hungry populace at the price mentioned, high as it must have seemed in 1855. The great feast was spread on tables which were placed on the lawn of the old state capitol, directly across the street from the Columbus hotel. In explaining away part of the stiff price asked for the dinner, Mr. Green, when interviewed, pointed out that oranges, as well as almonds, then rarities in this climate, were included in the menu. All in all, it was a dinner calculated to rob a man of any feeling of independence or piety which might have pervaded his soul before he sat down. Then came the Indians.

It is a bit difficult to know just why “we had to feed ‘em,” in view of the fact that the once great Indian war chief, Okemos, was, by 1855, hardly more than a “bum,” so far as any actual backing or strength was concerned. Perhaps people

were more tender-hearted in those days. Certain it is that if some people in business now had been faced with such a situation, we would have read about Okemos washing dishes after the rest of the folks had finished. Okemos would perhaps have gotten an almond. A story is a story, however, and if Mr. Green said it happened, why it just naturally happened, and no one would contradict it.

One factor strongly in favor of the version of Mr. Green, is that the olfactory nerves of Chief Okemos had been made wonderfully sensitive by the condition of mendicancy which had been imposed when the coming of civilization had eliminated Indian hunting grounds, and made war paint look merely romantic instead of fearsome. The old chief could probably smell a dinner like that from the next township.

Day Long Planned

The point of agreement, however, comes in the preparations for the day, which had been made far in advance. It was the 79th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the observations here were to be entirely of a community nature. There was a great long procession and in it were, according to the Republican, such units as the Lansing Sax Horn band (the sax horn seems to have been the forerunner of the present day saxophone, and perhaps this noise attracted the Indians and put them in a fighting mood which resulted in meek acquiescence about the dinner); the Clinton Light Artillery, the governor's guards; officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary war; officers and soldiers of the War of 1812; "38 young ladies representing the states and territories;" and then, as always in parades of that day, "Citizens and Strangers."

The route of march for the parade was from the lawn of the capitol to the corner of Washington avenue and Shiawassee street, "thence to the 'grove,' in the rear of the residence of Allen Goodrich, Esq., where ceremonies in commemoration of the day will take place," said the old newspaper. After the long program of singing and speaking had finished, the procession was to form again in the "grove" and march to "the arbor on the lawn in front of the capitol where dinner will be prepared for the company by Messrs. Darling and Green."

Just why the boys had to march the length of the town and back is hard to say. Possibly it was to give the promoters a chance to get their oranges peeled and the almonds shelled, and again, possibly "Messrs. Darling and Green" had figured that after the forced march everyone would have too big an appetite to resist the dinner, even with the penalty of half a

dollar extracted. Anyway, as *The State Republican* said, "The day passed off very well indeed," and perhaps it did.

These are the officers of the day for the community celebration of that Fourth of July of 75 years ago; H. H. Smith, president; Allen Goodrich, D. L. Case, C. P. Bush, Whitney Jones, D. G. McClure, J. C. Bailey, Henry Jipson, C. C. Darling, J. W. Holmes, Orange Butler, S. W. Wright, J. W. Longyear, W. H. Chapman, vice presidents; E. R. Merrifield, marshal; J. R. Price, A. R. Burr, assistant marshals; the Rev. Benjamin Franklin, chaplain; Prof. J. Adams Allen, orator; William H. Pinckney, reader; Capt. C. W. Leffingwell, commander of the Clinton Light Artillery; Lieut. J. C. Godley, commander of the governor's guards; J. P. Thompson, chairman of the committee on arrangements; Herman E. Hascall, secretary of that committee.

Mr. Hascall was later publisher of *The Lansing Republican*. The editor of the *Republican* at that time—whether it was DeWitt Clinton Leach or Rufus Hosmer who wrote this editorial announcement, isn't known—was apologizing for failure to attend a preliminary meeting of one of the committees at the capitol. He said he didn't know he was supposed to be there until he saw it in the paper. Evidently his brother editor pledged his presence and forgot to tell him about it.

And, so far as his presence went at the celebration itself, the editor might as well have stayed in bed that day, considering the story he wrote after eating his free dinner.

SQUIRE HAVENS' WHISKY GLASS, 1858

SEVENTY-TWO years ago, in 1858, Squire Champion Havens, wealthy figure in the public life of Lansing's rugged pioneer days, stood on the floor of the cupola of his newly-built house on South Grand avenue, slipped an upturned whisky glass over the very top of the spire of the cupola, as a monument of glass, marking the completion of the work. The glass is still in position today.

Charles H. Lawrence, president and general manager of the Lawrence Baking company, lives in this house now, at 213 South Grand avenue. The glass can be seen from the sidewalk, glistening in the sun. Few people have ever noticed it, but it is easily visible.

The little story of this whisky glass, and of the associations it recalls to those who have known it personally, would almost certainly have been lost had it not been for John

Smallwood, 1115 Eureka street, veteran barber of Lansing, who was young when Lansing was. [Editor's note: Mr. Smallwood died shortly after the publication of the 75th Anniversary edition.]

The State Journal carried the story about six years ago; many have forgotten it; those new to the city, and appreciative of lore, will read it with interest. It was originally written following an interview with Mr. Smallwood, an aged man.

In the dim distant days when South Grand avenue was the "Bronx" of Lansing, and when many of the "finest people" of the city lived there, Squire Havens erected his house, an ornament to the community. This was in 1858. The workmanship in the house was masterly; the cupola and spire which surmounted the home pleased the sense of propriety and appropriateness of the squire. He stood in admiration of the job as the workmen were putting on the very final touches.

Calling his workmen together, Squire Havens produced a black jug which was filled with the best whisky that money would buy, and the squire had plenty of money to buy good whisky with, too. Everyone on hand climbed through the house and up to the floor of the cupola, where one glass was produced. The jug was emptied in as masterly a fashion as the house had been built.

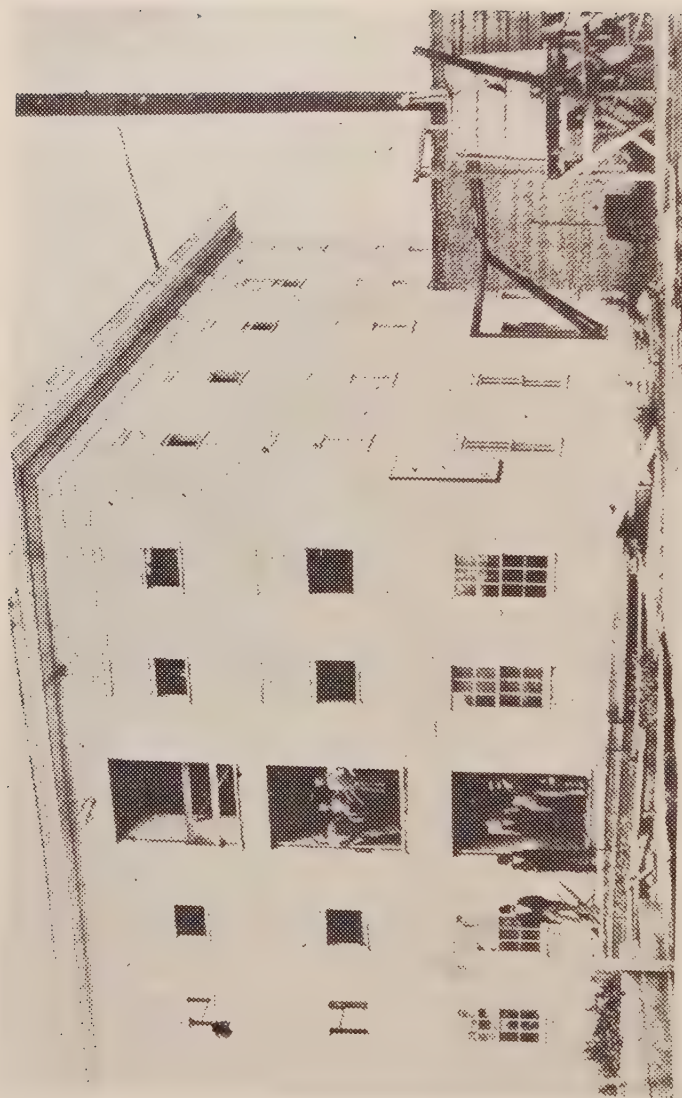
The squire and his workmen must have made a queer sight, up in that cupola tossing off jolts of hard liquor, in full sight of anyone who cared to watch. Andrew Volstead hadn't appeared on the scene then, so everything was quite legal. They put on their party without restraint. Squire Champion Havens arose solemnly when the last drop had been poured down a moist throat. "Men," he said, "I will take this glass, and we'll place it on top of this spire as a monument of this good work." And so, having drunk well, the good squire proceeded to clap the glass into position. If a man were to do something like that today, after quaffing hard liquor, some people might reach unjustified conclusions, but the squire never regretted his action and the glass stayed there.

This was the story Mr. Smallwood told The State Journal. Miss Mary E. Buck, daughter of Daniel W. Buck, Lansing pioneer merchant, recently recalled this historic story to The State Journal, and produced the clipping of the 1924 story.

The occasion which evoked the tale was the tearing down of the old home of Philo Daniels, across the street from the squire's house. Mr. Smallwood and other men interested in the old landmarks of the city were on the scene when the Journal reporter met them. James P. Edmonds, Chief Hugo R. Delfs of



Familiar sights of Lansing as it was known 60 years ago. Top view shows Capt. Abraham Cottrell's photograph shop, north side of West Michigan avenue, just east of Larch street. Captain Cottrell, an Englishman, was a Civil war veteran, but he acquired his title while a member of Lansing's fire department. The picture below is of "Matt" Daniel's livery stable, when it stood at 111 East Washtenaw street. It burned down in the 1880's



The old Parmelee Woolen mill, as it looked when it stood on the mill race, in north Lansing, 60 years and more ago. It stood on the northeast corner of Turner street and Franklin (now east Grand River) avenue and faced south. It burned down in the early '70's

the fire department, and others, were in the little knot, watching the workmen tear out the fine old timbers of the residence. It was then owned by William McClure, adopted son of Mr. Daniels. That house had been built in 1854. It was while watching the workmen that Mr. Smallwood called attention to the upturned glass on the spire across the street, and told its history. The reporter who handled the story for *The State Journal* in 1924 evidently felt strongly about national prohibition, for he ended his piece with this paragraph:

"And the twinkling glass goblet will continue to flash its message of the cheer of other days to this arid generation, until the despoiling hand of some iconoclast shall ruthlessly tear it down, lest it pollute the morals, the soul and the body of the youth."

Rather than having led young men staggering toward drunkards' graves, the small glass appears merely to have served the graceful office of reminding those of the present generation who know its history, that there were days in the past when a man could climb to the top of his house with a whisky glass in his hand and "get away with it."

DESCRIPTIONS OF EARLY LANSING

"MICHIGAN, MICH.," IN 1847

LANSING, known as "Michigan" from the spring of 1847 until the following year, used to postmark its few letters, "Michigan, Mich." So far as is known, the only letter extant bearing the postmark of "Michigan, Mich.," was unearthed for The State Journal, recently. The postmark, perfectly legible to the naked eye, is, however, too dim to be reproduced on newspaper stock, and for that reason no photostat of this interesting letter can be offered in connection with the story of it.

The letter was forwarded to The State Journal by C. W. Taylor of Wayland, N. Y., who offered to loan it, unsolicited, when he discovered it accidentally a few months ago. The letter is the property of Glenn Abrams of the same city. Mr. Abrams is the grandson of Levi Rosenkrans, to whom the letter was addressed by a pioneering friend of his, David Cockran.

So far as present interest in the letter is concerned, perhaps the outstanding feature of the communication is the writer's opinion of the state legislature, of which he said: "Our legislature has been in session nearly three months, and there is fair prospect that they will continue as much longer and accomplish nothing in the end." The letter, postmarked March 30, started on its journey just shortly before the adjournment of the 13th legislature, on April 3, so that Mr. Cockran's pre-

diction for a six-month session was slightly awry. The session lasted 92 days, to be concise about it, but then, Mr. Cockran, like most of his successors in this city and state, took liberties with the state legislature.

Old Die Used

The change from "Michigan" to "Lansing," made early in the session, hadn't become effective when the letter was written; the old dies were still used in the post office here; thus the postmark, "Michigan, Mich." There was no year date on the postmark, but the letter was dated accurately, and the facts in it vouch for the authenticity of it.

The letter was sent without an envelope, the address being written across the sheets which had been folded and sealed with red sealing wax. While the letter was dated March 26, it was not stamped at the "Michigan" post office, then on the northeast corner of East Main and South Cedar streets, until four days later. There is no indication as to how, or when, it reached its destination.

The address read: "To Mr. Levi Rosenkrans, Shannon, Stuben Co., N. Y." Mr. Taylor, in an explanatory letter which accompanied the old document, said that the nearest post office to Wayland was four miles away, maintained by a man named Shannon; thus the office was known as "Shannon." Wayland was then known as Cohocton, referred to in the mis-sive. Thus the old letter traveled between two towns, each of which has changed its name since that time.

David Cockran, who "took up his pen to address a few broken sentences" to Levi Rosenkrans, certainly didn't give any evidence of broken English, if that's what he was referring to, for his diction was generally of excellent quality, ascending at times to that of a scholar. His self-effacing modesty seems in line with the customs of that day, when people wrote letters prefaced with apologies for attempting such a feat as letter writing, then penning letters which they knew, in their hearts, were high calibre epistles.

The Letter

In any event, the letter, which furnishes a fine description of the earliest days of Lansing, follows, in full:

"March 26, 1848.

"Michigan.

"Respected Friend,—Having a few leisure moments I take my pen to address a few broken sentences as a token of remembrance to you. Since I left your place I have met with

nothing more than commonplace adventures and have finally taken up my residence for a time at the above named village; or the new capital of Michigan of which I will endeavor to give a description. It is situated in the County of Ingham and Township of Lansing at the point where the Grand and Cedar rivers unite their waters and plow on together toward their destination. The entire plat is about two miles long and one mile wide, embracing the whole of section sixteen and about half of nine and twenty-one. One year ago there was only one house, a barn and sawmill in the entire neighborhood and now there are more than a hundred scattered here and there among the trees forming on the whole a most grotesque appearance. I have been here the most of the time since last June. I trust you will not be vexed with me if I tell you that I am working at the carpenter and joining business and pass off for a very good workman as far as framing is concerned. . . . I have purchased a lot and shall probably build upon it next year. Elisha is also here and works at chopping and teaming. Father lives in the town of Eaton Rapids, about fifteen miles up the river from this place. His health is rather indifferent this winter. Lucretia and Isaac have been teaching school this winter and Abigail kept house for father.

"Our legislature has been in session nearly three months and there is a fair prospect that they will continue as much longer and accomplish nothing in the end.

"Politics and Religion are about as little talked of as the man in the moon or the famed Bucephelus; and as for the Liberty men, they are very few but true to the cause, for none save the true and tried friends of the oppressed dares to avow himself in favor of universal freedom lest the overwhelming tide of popular prejudice should bury him in oblivion. Yet there is a hope for the better, for a spirit of sympathy is silently at work in the hearts of the more benevolent portion of community which will eventually arouse itself to action which fully ripened for the public benefit.—I begin to want to see old Cohocton once more but do not know as I ever shall; but still I have some idea of coming down there in the fall, but dare not say I will.

"Tell Mrs. Rosenkrans that I have not had the ague yet and do not expect to have it, but feel very thankful for the kind attention that she would have bestowed upon me had I of needed it.

"Give my love to the children one and all especially to Ellen.

"Please to write me as soon as you can and give me all

the news relating to our old neighbors. Direct your letters to Michigan, Ingham County, Mich. and now as I have written you everything that I can think of I will bid you adieu for the present. Yours with respect.

"David Cockran to Mr. Levi Rosenkrans."

MAP OF LANSING, 1859

BBETTER than the memory of any man, more reliable than most written or printed records, more desirable for reference than any system of notes, is a map of the city of Lansing, issued in 1859 and owned by Miss Mary Buck, daughter of Daniel W. Buck, pioneer Lansing settler and business man. Loaned to The State Journal, for assistance in the preparation of copy for the anniversary edition, the parchment map, about five by seven feet, with a wealth of detail and information on it, stands as a unique relic of the village which grew from less than 3,000 population in 1859 to its present size in 70 years.

Every piece of property in the city is labeled with the name of its owner, and nearly every house in the city is indicated by a small black square. This means that all doubt which might surround the location of the residence of any person of outstanding importance, in the 1850's or 1860's, can be settled by a glance at this map. In addition to this device, a business directory of the city at that time is given on the edge of the large map, with the co-ordinates which cross at the location of the store or shop in question.

The map actually includes Ingham and Livingston counties, but the individual map of Lansing, drawn on a larger scale, would first attract the attention of anyone seeking specific and detailed information of the city.

Sycamore street was the western limit of the city in 1859 though there was a "subdivision" west of that, between West Michigan avenue and West Saginaw street, which looked important on the map, but no one lived on it. The streets next west of Sycamore, as plotted on this map, were McVeigh, Claypool and Miller, rather than Butler, Logan and then many smaller streets which are not continuous, north and south, on the present city map.

Many Streets Retain Names

Save for the fact that South Washington avenue was Elizabeth street, below Grand river, the other streets of the

city which were on the map in 1859 had the same names as they do today.

The marking of almost every house in the city makes easy the appreciation of "population centers;" clusters of houses were, of course, at "lower town," now known as north Lansing, the earliest location of pioneers in this section. The fact that Lansing was started in the true sense of the word on the east side of the river at the north end is shown plainly, for here the houses were more numerous.

Houses were pretty sparse south along Washington avenue until "middle town," near the capitol, was reached. "Upper town," now south Lansing, had a fair sprinkling of houses, especially in the section between South Washington avenue and Grand river.

Hosmer and Kerr's building, The State Republican office and the state bindery and printing office, shows up on lot 5 of block 101, or the location of the Y. M. C. A. at present, two lots east of the post office. The large and luxurious home of John A. Kerr, publisher of The State Republican, was indicated by a generous sized black ink square on the northeast corner of South Grand avenue and East St. Joseph street.

The office of the opposition paper, The Lansing Journal, appears near the old Columbus house, facing on East Allegan street, with its long, narrow form pointing south from the back of the Columbus house, which faced on South Washington avenue, at about where the Strand theater is today. George W. Peck, potent one-time democratic member of congress and publisher of The Lansing Journal when The State Republican was established, has his name in a dozen places on the map, for he was a wealthy land owner. His own palatial home stood on the southwest corner of South Washington avenue and West Main street.

DeWitt Clinton Leach, whose home has been located indefinitely in early histories as "Washington avenue," is seen to have lived on North Washington avenue, east side of the street, two lots south of Jefferson street. He was the next door neighbor of J. W. Longyear, lawyer, just north.

"D. W. Buck, Cabinet Maker," was credited with having his place of business on block 100, lot 6, on the marginal notation, and "J. C. Bailey & Co., Bankers," was located on the same corner. This is explained away, however, by the fact that while Mr. Buck was originally in business at that location which is now the Hardy Cigar store corner, northeast corner of Michigan and Washington avenues, today, he moved to his ultimate location on November 18, 1861, and J. C. Bailey



These were the first business houses ever built on the present site of the Prudden building, southwest corner of Michigan and Washington avenues. Burr and Grove, hardware merchants, were on the corner; Downs and Greenfield, tailors, were next, while the general store of John Thomas was on the left. The names of the merchants are among the most prominent in the early history of this city



West Michigan avenue, between Washington and Capitol avenues, looked like this, 50 years ago. Charles Lawrence started the Lawrence Baking company in the store with the sign "Stoves"; George E. Morgan, father of Burr Morgan, ran the bicycle shop next door, with the sign of the wheel over the door

moved his bank into the building on the "Hardy Corner," which had probably been leased, previously.

"Baker's Boarding House," patronized by state capitol employes, was located on East Michigan avenue, one lot east of Washington avenue, north side of the street, or where the Wolverine cafe is now located. It was managed by J. B. Baker.

"Phonographist"

Perhaps the most interesting notation on the map is the designation of the profession of Dr. S. D. Newbro as "Phonographist and General Business Agent." Inasmuch as Thomas Alva Edison did not patent his phonograph until 1876, the possible meaning of the word "phonographist" was not discovered until William H. Newbrough, president of the New Way Motor company, a nephew, was appealed to. "Dr. S. D. Newbro was one of the first students of shorthand," explained the nephew. "In those days, because of the fact that shorthand is built on the science and principle of reproducing sound phonetically, the art was originally called 'phonography'; one who had mastered the art was a 'phonographist' which latter was my uncle's designation of himself," continued the Lansing man.

"The variance in the spelling of his name, and mine, is accounted for by his devotion to the cause of reproducing sound phonetically; he decided that our family name contained too many letters, and he cut off the last three. We, however, have maintained the original spelling of the family name," concluded the Lansing man.

While almost every literate person has heard of "Newbro's Herpicide," the liquid hair restorer agent which has been nationally advertised for generations, few in Lansing realize that its "inventor" was from this city. Not Dr. S. D. Newbro, however, but his son, Dupont M. Newbro, took out the patent on the formula, according to Mr. Newbrough when asked about the connection between the liquid specific and his name.

The town's two "Female colleges" are located on the map, and in the case of Miss H. K. Clapp's school, competitor of Miss Rogers' school, the accurate location given on this map is a source of considerable interest to one who was beset with difficulties in tracing the history of this school. This latter school was on block 136, lot 4, which places it on South Washington avenue, west side, two lots north of Lenawee street. Miss Rogers' school, the better known one, was, of course, where the Michigan School for the Blind is now.

Dr. H. B. Shank's office and home was designated at

block 110, lot 7, or about where the Elks' temple stands today, 118 West Allegan street. Dr. E. Price, well known indeed, among Lansing's early citizens, had his office near the old Lansing house, South Washington avenue, east side, near Washtenaw street, and his home was on the same street, west side, corner of Lenawee street, just below Miss Clapp's school.

The Rev. C. S. Armstrong, pastor of the original First Presbyterian church, southwest corner of North Washington avenue and Genesee street, was located on the map, as living on the northeast corner of North Washington avenue and Saginaw street, which lot bore the name of G. A. Armstrong, who apparently had a large establishment. The Rev. A. Bowser was pastor of the United Brethren church, then on the northwest corner of South Capitol avenue and West Kalamazoo street, where an oil station is now.

The United Brethren church was the one which an attempt was made to fire in 1857, when two drunken farmers went amuck and tried to burn the town down, as described in another story in this edition.

Another oil station which has displaced a church is on the opposite corner, diagonally, or on the southeast corner. In 1859 the Baptist church was there; in later years, the Park Baptist church was on this same site.

The Rev. C. W. Knickerbocker, pastor of the Universalist church, was located as being on the southeast corner of South Grand avenue and East Allegan street, but no church is shown here on the map. In 1863, however, a church was built on this location.

The first Roman Catholic church, St. Mary's, was erected in 1859 on the northwest corner of Madison and Chestnut streets, with the only chime bells Lansing had at that time. The present St. Mary's church, southwest corner of Seymour avenue and West Ionia street, has chimes, as has the Plymouth Congregational church, southeast corner of Townsend and West Allegan street.

The old state capitol, designated "temporary capitol," on the block bounded by Washington and Capitol avenues, and Allegan and Washtenaw streets, is shown, of course, with the so-called "governor's mansion," in which no governor ever lived, on the northwest corner of this block.

Description of this map is inadequate for its complete enjoyment, but reproduction of it on a reduced scale was impractical, because of the wealth of detail on the large parchment.

LANSING IN 1890

FOR an intimate description of what Lansing looked like, back in the '90's and shortly before, The State Journal is indebted to an interview with the late J. W. Bailey, which was given shortly before the veteran local realtor died, December 13, 1928. The notes on this interview were preserved for publication at a more suitable time, which the anniversary edition seemed to suggest. J. W. Bailey's life has been treated in a biography of him in the anniversary edition; he was one of the best known men in this city during his mature life. He was born in Battle Creek, April 11, 1847.

Mr. Bailey was actively at work at his desk when he was asked to recall scenes familiar to him when Lansing was younger. "There was a horse car in the town, 40 years ago, when I started in business here," said Mr. Bailey, relaxing to ruminate through old scenes and recollections, "—and there was just one horse car, and that was all," he added smiling.

Growth of City Amazing

"Lansing had about 12,000 people then. Its growth in the meantime has been amazing. John Carr did a flourishing livery stable business at the corner of Shiawassee street and Washington avenue then. Electricity was not generally used; oil and gas were, however. There was no sewer system, or public water supply, and almost no telephones."

Speaking of the aspect of the city which most interested him, Mr. Bailey continued: "There were very few houses south of the Washington avenue bridge. The Hollister block, now the Capital National bank building, was of six stories, the very highest in town. The Downey hotel, with a stove in the middle of the lobby, was a four-story building, and other hotels of the town included the Hudson house, where the Strand theater is now; the Everett house, where R. E. Olds' residence is; the Chapman house, where the VanDervoort hardware store now stands.

"The city hall and the post office had not been built then, of course. The city government was on the second floor of what is now the Consumers Power building, 110 West Michigan avenue. The jail was near the river bank, on Michigan avenue, with a laundry on one side of it and a saloon on the other.

"The post office was in the building now occupied by the Redfield and McKeone clothing store." [Note: This is the Dodge block, northeast corner of Washington avenue and

Ottawa street.] "An old residence was on the present site of the post office, and was used by a manufacturer of tombstones."

Many One-Story Buildings

Crossing the street in his memories, Mr. Bailey went on: "The old Prudden building, where the present one now stands, was once the Whitney building, and above this, toward the capitol, was a row of one-story buildings, a bakery among them. A tintype gallery was on the corner where the Hotel Olds now stands; later there was a fried cake shop there, and the wares were peddled about the town on a three-wheeled cart."

A famed institution in Lansing was brought up by the recollections of the Lansingite, as he continued: "Mead's theater, or 'hall,' was on the second floor of the building on the southeast corner of Washington and Ottawa, Buck's opera house was on the next corner north, across the street, where the Gladmer is now. On the site of the Tussing building was the Methodist church; the Presbyterian had a frame church several blocks up the street, at Genesee. You could see the steeple for a long distance.

"Mayor James F. Hammel, in office from 1900 to 1903, was thought to be absolutely crazy when he extended Pennsylvania avenue south through the Morgan-Zabriske farm, south of Mt. Hope avenue, but the property down there sold just the same. Mt. Hope had for years been regarded as a fixed southern boundary of the city."

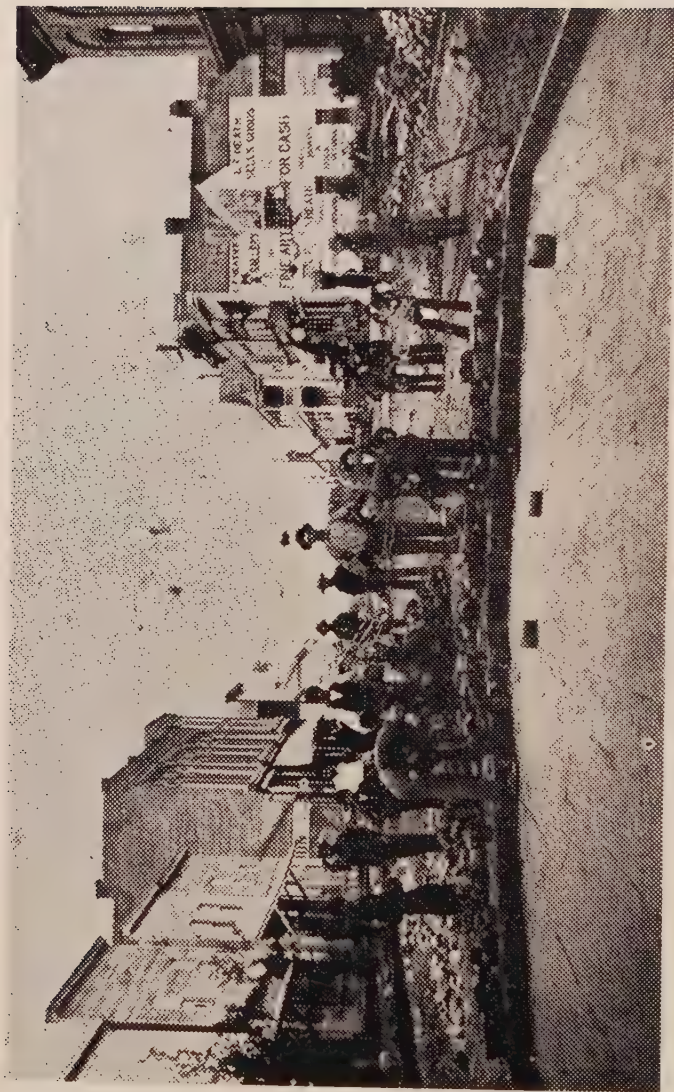
Few business men of his time had better recollections of the development of Lansing than this man who worked so long to build up the community.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS IN 1905

"**W**AY back when—," in 1905, a quarter of a century ago, not long in the history of The State Journal, but very far back in the active history of present day citizens of Lansing, when J. A. Carr and Son were advertising carriages for parties, W. K. Prudden was selling automobiles at 408 East Michigan avenue. The competition between the horse and the motor car, just beginning, was one of the significant manifestations of this century; one of the turning points in the lives of civilized men. Advertisements record the beginning of this revolution in the habits of people.



Firemen were on parade when this picture was taken, some 40 years ago, as the procession passed the corner of Ottawa street, headed south on North Washington avenue. The Tussing building, now on the northwest corner, hadn't been built then



Here is a scene taken on Franklin avenue, a good many years ago. It shows the first block to be paved on West Grand River avenue, then Franklin avenue. The old Franklin Terrace, still standing, is seen at right. It was originally the Seymour house. Several other buildings shown here are still standing. The picture is about 30 years old

The two advertisements and many others came to light recently in a pamphlet issued in 1905 by the Lansing branch (No. 122) of the National Association of Letter Carriers, brought to the offices of The State Journal by Mrs. Fred R. Pulcifer, R. F. D. No. 2. The history of the town and some of its best known citizens then and now is practically photographed for that year, so far as downtown stores and businesses are concerned, in this booklet, with its many advertisements.

The Lansing Wagon works, North Grand street (not "avenue," as we style it now) was one of the advertisers, another business activity which would amount to anachronism today; J. G. Reutter conducted a meat market at 322 South Washington avenue; the Lansing Wheelbarrow company featured the "Michigan Runner" for sleighs, and the Lansing Brewing company, boosting its "Amber Cream and Export," conveyed the information that this product was "bottled for family use."

Many Liquor Stores

Liquor store advertisements were many: W. G. Conklin was the proprietor of a liquor store at 205 South Washington avenue; Frank Hayes ran "The Arcade," 109 East Michigan avenue, a liquor store, where "Amber Cream Beer (was) always on tap;" George G. Whitcomb's liquor store, at 116 East Michigan avenue, advertised, "It is the best Old J. E. Pepper and Sunny Brook Rye." Bars, as such, didn't advertise, of course. That was one item of overhead not encountered in the business of running a bar. The advertisements cited were for stores which sold liquor, and where merely beer was on tap.

However, people did something besides buy and sell whisky in Lansing in 1905. Witness the old ads for Dodge and Whitney Jewelry store, 204 North Washington avenue; Jewett and Knapp's clothing store, 222-224 South Washington avenue, where the J. W. Knapp store is now; Reck Brothers' grocery, "Franklin avenue east" (now East Grand River avenue), north Lansing; Frank T. Collver's custom shirt shop for men at 112 East Ottawa street.

Frank L. Gardner, "The Reliable Druggist," had a drug store on the corner of Washington avenue and Ottawa street; E. E. Reynolds' "Seven Chair Barber Shop," was at 105 West Michigan avenue in those so-called good old days when women thought it immodest, if not positively immoral, to look sideways at a barbershop, filled with men reading the "Police Gazette."

In his advertisement, W. K. Prudden didn't specify what kind of automobiles he was selling, but of the many kinds manufactured today, only five were being made in 1905, and among them were the Lansing products, the Oldsmobile ("The Merry Oldsmobile") and the Reo, both veterans in the business.

The advertisement for J. A. Carr and Son called attention to the fact that carriages for parties were available, and that "rubber tired ones on request" was another feature of their service. "Special attention to orders for dances, riding and calling parties," read the advertisement for the business, which with thousands of others like it throughout the nation, went into oblivion, sent there by the great automobile industry, which once, like Mr. Prudden modestly advertised with that single word, "automobiles."

"GREATER LANSING," IN 1906

"GREATER LANSING," was what they called the city, even 25 years ago, when there were but 29,000 residents here. The title comes from a booklet which was issued by The Lansing Journal, in 1906, to mark 50 years of progress in the capital city.

Great as the city undoubtedly was, by contrast with the state of development here at any considerable time past, Lansing has, in the meantime, scored an accelerated increase in population, influence and importance, so that today the population of Lansing and East Lansing is 110,875, according to the estimates of the publishers of the 1929 city directory.

Casting a backward glance to the city of nearly 25 years ago, back to 1906, is best accomplished through the medium of this "Greater Lansing" book issued 'way back in the days when the Reo Motor Car company was advertising that its product had been tried and seasoned by "two years trial all over the world."

The advertisement of the Reo Motor Car company cast a faint shadow, then, of the great power of expansion which the automobile industry was to bring to this city, which, only a few years ago, after all, was on the verge of industrial growth unsuspected when the book "Greater Lansing" made its appearance.

The book, which sought to sketch in the industrial phases of the city's complexion, pointed out, in the matter of transportation, that Lansing's street car system, superior to

that of any other city of its size in the country, operated 85 cars over 151 miles of track, with suburban traffic between Lansing and St. Johns by means of 15 cars on 41 miles of trackage. The Lansing and Suburban Traction company operated, in addition, interurban service between this city and Battle Creek, Jackson and Kalamazoo.

Today, the story of interurban electric transportation is nearing completion, after this activity had been highly developed, to be reduced by the inroads of the automobile. One definite proposal has already been made in city council to do away with even the city service, in favor of gasoline buses, municipally operated.

Two Telephone Companies

Two telephone companies offered service to a total of some 3,600 subscribers. Besides the Michigan State Telephone company, the Citizens Telephone company was in the field. Today, of course, all city telephone service is in the hands of the Michigan Bell Telephone company.

Michigan Power company supplied electric light, steam heat and power to the city in 1906. Today, the city offers steam heat, water and electricity, while the Consumers Power company offers gas, in the city, and supplies electrical power to the street railway system.

Building operations in the city had, just previous to 1906, been of such magnitude as to evoke the use of superlatives in description, and it is true that while larger buildings have been erected in the meantime, some of the buildings of recent construction then, are yet of importance in the city. They were large then, considering the size of Lansing at that time.

Notable among the new buildings was the Cameron and Arbaugh building, once the location of the Lansing Business university, which, now enlarged, with its South Washington avenue frontage, is at present the F. N. Arbaugh company store, southeast corner of South Washington avenue and East Kalamazoo street. The Hollister block, now known as the Capital National Bank building, had been erected only shortly before the 1906 "Greater Lansing" booklet was published. It has since been extensively remodeled, notably by an addition to the rear end, at right angles to the main part of the building, and by a re-casting of the front of the building.

The old Prudden block, on the site of the present one, southwest corner of West Michigan and South Washington avenues, was pictured in the book. This building was burned,

December 28, 1920, to be replaced later by the present 10-story Prudden building.

The present Y. M. C. A. building had not been erected in 1906, but the location, just east of the post office building, on West Michigan avenue, had been selected, and \$59,000 had been contributed toward the project. This building, in its turn, is now thought inadequate, and plans for the erection of a larger structure, on the southwest corner of Townsend and West Allegan streets, have already been launched.

Socially, Lansing was recognizing the fine arts by the presence of two musical clubs, the Matinee Musicale and the Lansing Choral Union. Baird's Opera house, originally Buck's Opera house, was, of course, operating in 1906. The Bijou theater, a vaudeville house, was another center of attraction at that time.

Three Banks Here

Three banks, the Lansing State Savings, the City National and the Capital National, functioned in 1906. The last named institution had opened its doors on May 24, of the year the booklet was published, 1906.

Waverly park, summer resort and amusement center, was at the height of its popularity in 1906, having been opened to the public, August 1, two years before. An electric line connected the city with the park to the southwest. There was a hotel in the park then. Pine lake was a "going" concern 25 years ago.

Michigan State college was accorded considerable space in the booklet. The most significant comparison with the institution of today is the fact that there were nearly 1,000 students there at that time. Today there are more than 3,000.

A building, the mere mention of which brings back a flood of memories to those who were mature in 1906, is Arbiter hall, on North Grand avenue, headquarters of the old German club, so prominent at the beginning of this century.

Among the manufacturing plants of the city were the W. K. Prudden company, now the Motor Wheel corporation; the Omega Separator company; the New Way Motor company; the Lansing Spoke company; the Beilfus Motor company; Bates and Edmonds, now the Hill-Diesel Engine company; the Olds Motor Works (incorporated May 9, 1899); the Olds Gas Power company, which was incorporated July 30, 1890.

One concern which is now memory of the past is the old Maude S. Windmill and Pump company, established July 7, 1892. The name arises from the international reputation of



Lansing in the 1890's showed, at top, the Grove and Whitney building where the Prudden building now stands; while the west side of Washington avenue, just south of Michigan avenue, shown at center, showed Ingersoll's dry goods store where the Mills store stands today, with the same iron pillars in front. Bottom picture shows stores directly across the street



From the stand pipe on South Cedar street, the picture at upper left was taken, 30 years ago, as were the others in this group. The views need no explanation to any Lansingite, and they all furnish interesting contrasts with present views from the same points

one "Maude S.," a fast trotting horse of an even earlier period, whose trotting speed was synonymous with great acceleration and activity.

The factory of E. Bement's Sons, now the Novo Engine company, of which Clarence E. Bement is the president, was a familiar name in 1906. The factory was then on the land, part of which is now the location of the present State Journal building, northeast corner of North Grand avenue and East Ottawa street.

Other factories included the Owosso Sugar company; Michigan Power company, a public utility concern; the Genesee Fruit company, makers of cider and vinegar; Lansing Wheelbarrow company; Huber Manufacturing company, makers of farm implements; Keokuk Canning company; Lansing Wagon Works; Hugh Lyons and Company; Michigan Condensed Milk company; the Auto Body company, organized 1901; the Bidwell Thresher company; Michigan Knitting company; many others among the 113 firms listed in the 1906 booklet.

The Lansing Brewing company, with a clear picture of its buildings, was included in the businesses of north Lansing, in the period covered by the booklet. This was north of the Auto Body plant, on Turner street, just north of East Grand River avenue. Organized in 1897, the plant had expanded in the interim to one having an annual capacity of 20,000 barrels of beer. It is now, of course, defunct.

W. H. Porter conducted an omnibus, hack and livery stable on the southwest corner of West Washtenaw street and South Capitol avenue, now the location of the Capital Auto company, with the Porter garage just south. The business had been established 40 years before the 1906 booklet was published by John C. Adams, who must, therefore, have started in business in 1866. The Capital Auto company was at that time located at 315 East Michigan avenue, as a recent successor to what had been known as the Reo garage.

W. C. Dudley, now president and general manager of the Dudley Paper company, 740 East Shiawassee street, was, in 1906, a traveling representative of a Cincinnati paper company, "making" Lansing once a week, but so well known was he that considerable mention of his activities was made in the civic booklet. His Lansing quarters were then at 505 South Capitol avenue, where he carried a stock of printers' paper for local trade.

One of the largest advertisements in the booklet was that of the Lansing Fuel and Gas company, 110 East Michigan

avenue, which featured the Humphrey "Gas Arc," which was described as furnishing artificial sunlight.

The whole booklet furnishes light, these days, on the Lansing that was, in 1906, almost a quarter of a century ago on the calendar, but seemingly an age ago, when measured by strides of advancement, during a period which witnessed changes for the better, and improvements in all of the achievements of the citizens of the city.

CLOSE GLIMPSES OF JOURNALISM

ONE EDITOR TO ANOTHER

NEARLY everyone knows that in the good old days editors of newspapers used to call each other horse thieves, or worse, but not many persons of the younger class today ever saw one of these editorials unless they looked in early newspaper files. Some old ones are reproduced here.

The editors of the newspapers of Lansing, in 1855 and later, acted in accordance with the rule of editorial conduct approved and expected at that time. While today editors are not publicly conscious of the presence or activities of their brother editors, 75 years ago it was quite the thing to toss verbal explosives at each other.

The temper of expression was changed to suit conditions and relations between newspapers, from time to time, in those days. If a political battle was being waged, expressions were strong. Otherwise, they were fairly tolerant, even cordial.

In the early days of The Lansing Republican, there are references to J. P. Thompson, editor of the rival Lansing Journal, which are interesting for their frankness, evident sincerity, heavy, blunt humor and cumbersome sarcasm, for these characteristics stand out, successively, in the thrusts from the Republican.

New Paper Greeted

In the edition for May 5, 1855, of the Republican, we find a greeting from the Journal to the new paper, which had

appeared, of course, in the Journal for that week. This greeting was meant for reproduction in the first issue of the Republican, but it was "inadvertently omitted," Henry Barns, the first editor, explains.

"We are gratified to learn that we are to have another paper in Lansing," Editor Thompson of the Journal had said. "It will, of course," the paragraph continued, "represent the views of the present state administration. The first number will be issued on Saturday. Mr. Henry Barns is the proprietor and editor." The reference ended with the sentence: "We extend the hand of welcome."

Mr. Barns, for his part, in the acknowledgment printed directly under the reproduction from the Journal, expressed "the hope that however warmly we or our contemporaries may advocate our respective views, nothing may occur to mar the friendly personal and social intercourse that now, and should always, exist."

Seraphic calm still pervaded the atmosphere after about two months had passed, and the Journal complimented its rival for its general characteristics. Mr. Barns, who had left for Detroit, in the meantime, had passed on the good feeling to Rufus Hosmer and DeWitt Clinton Leach, who were co-editors of the Republican when the Journal again took notice of its "contemporary." Said the editors of the Republican: "For the Journal's very kind and highly flattering notice of us and our efforts, we render our most hearty thanks. And in this connection, we would make similar acknowledgments to the press of the state and elsewhere."

When Mr. Thompson fell ill, we find sympathy in the jot in the issue for September 11, 1855. It said:

"We regret to learn that J. P. Thompson, esquire, of the Journal, on account of long continued ill health, has found it necessary to visit a water cure establishment at the east. We earnestly wish him a speedy recovery and safe return to his family."

Three months later, the rival editor came back, and this is what he read in the Republican for the issue of December 11, 1855:

"HOME AGAIN—We are heartily glad to welcome home again our esteemed friend, J. P. Thompson, esq., editor of the Journal. His long sojourn at 'Berlin Heights' has wonderfully improved his health, and he returns to his labors sound in body and WIND, and happy in mind. 'Berlin Heights' it seems, produces the same agreeable effect that 'tarrying at Jericho' did in the good old days of David. He informs us that

the establishment was burned just before he left. The loss was about \$20,000—insurance \$8,000."

The best explanation that can be hazarded for the reference to Jericho, is that Thompson must have grown a beard during his absence. Samuel II, chapter 10, contains the passage, "and the king said, Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and then return."

One gets the idea at times that editors conducted their papers for the almost exclusive benefit of the editor "across the way." Certain it is that rival editors would salute each other cordially on the streets, then dash for their desks and write cutting things about each other.

"We have hopes for the Journal," wrote Mr. Leach in his issue for May 20, 1856, when he was sole editor. "It is coming up," he conceded patronizingly, to continue, "Its last week's issue is quite respectable. Its assertions are more modest and its language milder than heretofore."

Just as the reader—but not Thompson, probably, for he was probably prepared for a jolt—was beginning to think the editors had signed a peace pact, this closing sentence was encountered: "We know not what others may think, but we attribute his eminent success to the total absence of editorials from his columns."

In the following month, however, the exchange of pleasantries over the coming general elections of 1856, evidently got under the guard of Mr. Leach, for in the issue of June 24, 1856, we read, of his democratic rival:

"The Journal can tell more and bigger lies—that's the word—than any other paper of its calibre of the state." A point of disagreement was then discussed.

Two weeks later, however, on July 8, 1856, the Republican made it stronger than ever, if there had been any doubt about its sentiments before. "Last week's Journal overflowed with malice and falsehood. The editor cannot or will not tell the truth. The truth is not in him—how can he speak it?"

Not So Friendly

Apparently the breaking point had been reached by the end of another month, for Mr. Leach, to whom evidence points as a man of restraint and refined character, extended himself to insult Mr. Thompson. The files of the old Lansing Journal are not believed to be in existence so far back as this time, so no fitting explanation of Mr. Thompson's editorials can be made, impartially.

However, when The Lansing Republican learned that

the Journal's editor was leaving the village, this was the long observation:

"THOMPSON'S FAREWELL—The last number of the Journal contains the valedictory of its late editor, J. P. Thompson. He goes to Grand Rapids and is to be hereafter connected with the Enquirer of that city. We sincerely wish his past acts had been such that we could speak commendatory words of him at his departure. But it would be an insult to this community to call him a gentleman, a man of truth, a man of honor; therefore we prefer to say nothing. Let him depart in silence and in peace.

"Possibly his experience here may have taught him that which will lead him to a different course of life; if so, no one will rejoice more heartily than we. We have no unkind feelings toward him; we commiserate his misfortunes, but we know that he has brought them upon himself. Go, Thompson, from the scene of your follies, and see if, in a different atmosphere, you can once more be a man and a gentleman."

Even when the two editors, Leach and Thompson, were, in those days, distant from each other, the bombardment continued. Thompson was writing about Leach, evidence shows. Leach, in the issue for December 23, 1856, replied:

"Thompson, former director of the Journal, and now of The Grand Rapids Enquirer, occasionally attempts to give us 'fits.' Very well—let him 'go it'—we turned him out to grass long ago, as the people since have the man who 'owned' him when he presided over the Journal. If he will but return the books for which he is indebted to the state library we will give him a receipt in full, and continue to keep secret the revelations he made to us relative to his former master."

The humor inherent in the reference to returning books, is evident when it is realized that Mr. Leach, in addition to being editor of The Lansing Republican, was also state librarian. The man who "owned" Thompson was George W. Peck, publisher of the Journal, who was defeated for a seat in congress by Leach in the election of 1856.

Such were the things which enlivened journalism in the old days. Some ingredients for quickening the editorial pulse were certainly needed, for in spite of the paramount importance of the issues at stake then, news was certainly at a premium. Probably the subscribers enjoyed the tiffs between the editors quite as much as they did anything else in the papers—except, and always except—seeing their own names in print, at the bottom of "Letters from Subscribers."

NICHOLAS GOODALL, The most Wonderful Violinist of the 19th Century,

Will, by general request, give one more Concert in Lansing, which will take place on Wednesday evening, Oct. 1st, 1866, in the Representatives' Hall. He will be assisted by his father, the celebrated *Buffo* Singer and *Violoncellist*—"a new programme"—and Master Nick will perform the master piece of *Paganini*, *entirely* on a *single string*—a feat unparalleled in modern days, and which he performed for 24 consecutive nights in the Music Hall in Philadelphia.

Admission only 25 cents. Concert will commence punctually at 8.

CAUTION TO THE PUBLIC.

Since the introduction of my Schiedam Aromatic Schnapps into the United States, a number of Liquor Mixers in New York, Boston and Philadelphia have been engaged in putting up mixed and poisonous Gin in green cases and jugs, and to be palmed off upon the unwary for my genuine Schnapps. I have directed my agents to institute legal proceedings against all persons who they may ascertain to be engaged in this most atrocious system of deception, and I call on the press and the public to aid them in their efforts to remedy so great an evil.

UDOLPHO WOLFE.

49w12

NOTICE.

WHEREAS Alfred Ralph was bound to me the undersigned subscriber until he should become 21 years of age, Alfred Ralph has left me without just cause or provocation, this is to forbid all persons harboring or trusting him on my account as I shall pay no debts of his contracting after this date.

JAMES CARNES.

Lansing, June 11, 1855.

8w3*

Found.

On or about the 15th of April last, a LEVER WATCH, on the road near my house. The owner can have the same by proving property and paying charges.

M. K. NORTH.

Lansing, May 27, 1856.

6-w3

New Advertisements.

ESTRAY—My Cow left my premises some two months ago, "without any just cause or provocation." She has a white spot about the size of a two shilling piece, (so far as I can remember how a two shilling piece looks,) a little to the right of the center of her forehead, otherwise she is a dark brown color, medium size, about 8 years old, black bag, with five teats. I hereby forbid all persons harboring or trusting her on my account, as I will pay no debts contracted by her after this date, but I will pay a reasonable compensation for her return.

Lansing, June 2d, 1866.

O. A. JENISON.
432w

THE ARTS OF PEACE,

Capitol Saloon!

(2d and 3d doors north of the Lansing House.)

N. W. EDGAR, PROPRIETOR.

THIS well-known Saloon has recently been thoroughly overhauled and repaired, and every adjunct secured necessary to make it pleasant and inviting. The proprietor will spare no pains to make this the best and most agreeable place for refreshment in town. First-class cooking; first-class dishes and material; the best attendance, and the "first society," are inducements, he flatters himself, that naturally attach to his saloon. A Ball Alley, with two beds, has been added, and with the Billiard Rooms, will afford ample and healthful exercise and relaxation to guests. The utmost order will be strictly enforced.

Lansing, Jan. 1, 1857.

B. TAYLOR.

S. F. HENROP.

Fun, Love, or Matrimony.

ALL YOUNG LADIES IN FAVOR

or in search of Fun, Love or Matrimony, address

P. W. or E. M. K.,

West Springfield, Erie Co., Pa.

*1w 419

Just a few of some of the most interesting "liner" advertisements taken, by photostat, from the files of the old State Republican, in the 1850's and '60's. Perhaps the most humorous is O. A. Jenison's advertisement for his lost cow, shown at upper right, but they all reflect flashes of life as it was lived two generations ago



It was a gala day in Lansing when this picture was taken from the southwest corner of Michigan and Washington avenues. The State Republican office is seen easily as is the old Broas clothing store in the Grove and Whitney building, where the Pruaden building stands today

GIFTS FOR THE EDITOR

IF A 1930 subscriber to The State Journal staggered up the editorial stairs some bright winter morning with a peck of potatoes for the city editor, with the compliments of the season, consternation and some quizzical expressions would result behind the desks of that department. When The State Republican, now The State Journal, was young, however, this practice was common—bringing things to the editor. It reflects the financial precariousness of the profession, as well as it indicates the personal feeling which existed between the editor of a newspaper and his subscribers. It is a note from the days of "personal journalism."

Once, during the summer of 1857, Herman E. Hascall, editor, and his staff, received a bucket of lemonade from a nearby grocer who took pity on the overheated scribes laboring to get out their weekly. This is what appeared in the next succeeding issue, that of June 16.

"LEMONADE—In behalf of the attaches of this office, and ourself, we tender our thanks to A. B. Bagley, grocer, for the welcome longitudinal refreshment of a pail of delicious lemonade. Mr. Bagley's 'ingreiences' for his lemonade are of the best kind, and he compounds them skillfully and philosophically."

A short time later, there was cause for another "thanks," for Hascall, alone, was remembered with refreshments. There doesn't seem to have been enough for anyone else. Thus on July 7, we read:

"ACKNOWLEDGMENT—We are under obligations to Mrs. Upson for a dish of most delicious strawberries. It does a printer's heart (and palate, too) good to be thus remembered."

There are more such notices than are reproduced here, but the ones quoted are typical. Later in the year, gifts to the editor were of a more staple kind. Witness the potatoes brought in to the man who was so highly regarded:

"We acknowledge the receipt of a basket of 'White Flour Potatoes,' from Mr. Abner Brown, of this city."

This acknowledgment was published August 25, 1857.

There was good reason for these "gifts to the editor;" he was a man to whom practically everyone in the community looked for guidance and advice. The editors themselves felt this attitude, knew that they were expected to assume a paternal attitude toward their subscribers. Editors frequently told their friends what to do and when to do it. There was an air

of patronage about it which is inescapable to the present day reader.

Take the theatrical notice which appeared July 7, 1857, in which Hascall as much as said: "It's all right, folks; I think the show is okeh—you can go." Here's what he really did say:

"THE DRUIDS ARE COMING—The Druid family of Ox Horn Players will give one of their highly entertaining concerts at Representative hall on Thursday of this week. . . . We would not knowingly ask our citizens to patronize an unworthy performance, but we believe that this is one that for novelty and real excellence is deserving of patronage. Go, then, and hear the Druids. Admission 25 cents. Doors open at 7½ o'clock—concert to commence at 8."

Few dollars came to editors, however, unless for legitimate obligations. Food was more plentiful than currency, and comments on money frequently brought out the "ragged elbow" aspect of journalism which was more general 75 years ago than it is now, albeit most publishers thrived then, as they do now. In this connection, however, comes a notice which appeared January 20, 1857:

"Always give the name of the person to whom the paper is to be sent. We received a dollar last week from Detroit on subscription, but as no name was given, we have applied the money toward the endowment of a saloon for relief of hungry printers."

SKETCH OF JOHN A. KERR, EDITOR

PUBLISHER of The State Republican for 11 years, second mayor of Lansing, builder of the first really fine residence in the city, a lavish spender, a wise and generous man, and a student—this is the measure of John A. Kerr, a man known and respected by the few people of Lansing whose memories go back far enough to remember him. He died almost 62 years ago, but from their fathers, many Lansing men today know him almost as though he were alive and well.

With him, business came first, but closely after this consideration was the enjoyment of life. Progressive enough to make a great amount of money in the newspaper and printing business, he was yet human enough to know how to relax, and entertain others.

Characteristic and descriptive of the man is a story told by Daniel S. Mevis, Lansing pioneer and first office and delivery boy of the old State Republican. When the absence of

her husband seemed to have extended itself beyond reasonable expectations, Mrs. Kerr used to send "Danny" Mevis (now 93 years old) to make the rounds of the village hotels, looking for Mr. Kerr. "When you find him, slip out of sight and come back and tell me where he is, and I'll give you fifty cents," Mrs. Kerr would promise. Danny generally found the newspaper publisher, perhaps at a card table at the Columbus house, or the Benton house. He would wait until Mr. Kerr saw him, then try to dodge, knowing that he would be called back. "Danny, here's a dollar—go tell Mrs. Kerr you couldn't find me," would be the instructions from the temporarily strayed husband. Danny would report that he didn't find Mr. Kerr, "but I tried hard," and this would bring a fifty-cent reward for his efforts.

Went to Medical School

John A. Kerr was born near Auburn, N. Y., June 7, 1825, and his first great ambition was to be a doctor. This urge stayed with him to such an extent that he worked his way through medical school, selling books during his summer vacations. Near the end of his medical course, his interest in books and the publishing business generally asserted itself, and the outcome of it was that he joined the Rochester firm publishing the books he had been selling. He entered the publishing business, on his own resources, in a limited way, in the same city, later on.

Coming to Detroit in 1854, he established the printing and publishing firm of Doughty and Lapham, secured the state stationery contract, and later sold out to come to Lansing to try for the entire state printing business, which contract he secured in 1857.

The state printing office was in the same building in which The State Republican, then two years old, was being issued. In fact, the newspaper and the contract had been, for those two years, held jointly by Kerr's predecessors. Kerr, therefore, bought The State Republican from Herman E. Hascall, secured Rufus Hosmer as a partner, and started his career in the state capital.

"Hosmer & Kerr"—a familiar firm name in Lansing's early days. These two men added a floor to the original two-story building, for the publication of the newspaper. It was a large frame building, painted red.

The firm name was shortened to "John A. Kerr & Company," however, after the death of Rufus Hosmer, April 20, 1861. George Jerome of Detroit succeeded Hosmer as a si-

lent partner, and Kerr carried on with his usual great success.

Kerr was the first man in Lansing to use gas in his home, and he manufactured his own supply on his premises. His dwelling was the point of gravitation for anyone of consequence in the state, when in Lansing. Part of the original Kerr home stands today, nearly on its first location. He lived on the northeast corner of South Grand avenue and East St. Joseph street, and his home, with large columns as its chief attraction from the front, now faces St. Joseph street at No. 213, with its columns still intact. It is occupied by Walter F. Beardslee.

It is said that Mr. Kerr withdrew as much as \$15,000 annually from the earnings of The State Republican, for the upkeep of this house, in the halcyon days. He used to send a team and wagon to Detroit, over the old plank road, before winter set in, to bring from the metropolis a supply of all kinds of liquor, canned goods and supplies, in preparation for his open house, which was his way of living. His open handedness was proverbial.

Was Scholarly

His early good education along general lines in the medical school, combined with his great attraction toward books and printing, made him the scholar he has been described as being, by those who knew him. He was an untiring reader. The firm "Hosmer & Kerr" were great and voracious eaters, if intimate stories told of the men can be relied upon. Hosmer is credited with having said: "A turkey is an uncomfortable bird; a little too big for one, and not big enough for two." Just what the Hosmers did about it at Thanksgiving time isn't known. Kerr is said to have had a stupendous capacity for both solids and liquids.

His term as mayor of Lansing, during the year 1860, was marked by the inauguration of a system of beautifying the city, by having a double row of trees planted on the principal streets, and some of the streets were graded uniformly during his term in office.

Mr. Kerr died July 29, 1868, near London, Ont., in a car of the Great Western railway, when he was on his way back to Lansing from St. Catherine's, Ont., where he had been, seeking to recover his health. He was buried August 1, with one of the largest funerals Lansing had ever seen at that time. The cemetery was located where Oak park lies today, facing Saginaw and East streets.

Of the many owners of The State Republican, Kerr was

without doubt one of the most progressive, picturesque and human.

THE "JOURNAL" FIRE OF 1857

ONE of the most disastrous blows dealt to early journalistic efforts in the village of Lansing, was the fire of Sunday morning, October 18, 1857, which burned out the Moore block, in which The Lansing Journal was located. The total loss was estimated at \$25,420, of which \$5,000 was covered by insurance. This, in the "frontier" days of Lansing, was almost a death blow. Two drunken farm hands caused the blaze.

The same fire threatened the building of The State Republican, which was also the state printing and binding shop, and the Columbus house, one of the best hotels of that time, was only narrowly saved.

The Moore block and the Columbus hotel and other buildings mentioned as affected by this fire, were on the east side of South Washington avenue, from about 215, south to Allegan street.

The entire story lies in the files of The State Republican of that time, and, so far as inspection of other histories of Lansing goes, the disaster was not recorded in any other way than by the one newspaper to survive the fire.

Two incendiaries were caught, one in the act of firing the United Brethren church, while citizens were fighting five other fires in several parts of the city. Only intervention on the part of some influential men prevented the first man caught from being hanged, so great was the frenzy of the mob. Both men were eventually sent to Jackson state prison for 10-year terms.

Cleaned Out

The office of the Journal, fully destroyed, left the management entirely without any records as to subscriptions, advertising bills, or obligations, the result being that the publishers, through the columns of The State Republican, had to appeal to the public not to take advantage of the situation, but to acknowledge debts, remind the publishers of the dates of their subscriptions, and help out in every way to get new books posted as soon as possible.

The story of the fire, in The State Republican for October

20, first edition of the weekly following the fire, is sufficiently complete to justify its being quoted verbatim:

"DESTRUCTIVE FIRE

"Diabolical Attempt to Burn the Town for Plunder

"Sunday, Oct. 18—10 A. M.

"This morning, at 2 o'clock, the Moore Block, owned by Hon. George W. Peck, was discovered to be on fire. The block was burned with most of its contents, and the whole village was saved by the vigilance of our citizens from destruction, by the arrest of the principal incendiary, who gave his name as Edmund Hawkins. Our neighbors of The State Journal, everything pertaining to the office, including all their books and accounts, were destroyed.

"The losses are estimated as follows:

"George W. Peck, \$10,000, no insurance.

"Burr & Grove, hardware, \$6,000, insured for \$3,000.

"John Thomas & Co., \$2,000, fully insured. Notes and mortgages lost, \$1,500.

"Mead & Griswold, Michigan State Journal office, \$2,000; books and accounts, \$4,000, no insurance.

"Lansing Masonic Lodge No. 33, furniture and regalia, \$300.

"By almost superhuman efforts, the Columbus House was saved, and The State Republican office and State Bindery, the last of which would have added more than \$20,000 to the list. While this fire was raging, five other buildings were discovered in flames in various parts of the village, only one of which was burned, a barn belonging to J. C. Bailey, worth \$150. The stage barn adjoining the Lansing House was discovered on fire, the barn of D. P. Reiff, and the marble shop of C. W. Butler, at the same time.

"The incendiary was caught in the act of firing the United Brethren church, and the excited crowd seized, and would have hung him on the spot, but for the prompt interference of Dr. Shank, F. LaRue, and others, who rescued him from their hands.

"A meeting is to be held at 12 o'clock today to organize a Protective Police, to act as a night watch, and to take such measures as the emergency requires. This morning, a second person, named William Rice, was arrested, supposed to be an accomplice, and others are implicated. The officers have them in charge. This is a sad blow to our village, from which she will not soon recover, and had there been any wind, nearly or quite all the business portion of the village would have been

destroyed. The regular issues of the Journal will appear in a week or two, as we are informed by Messrs. Mead & Griswold."

The publishers of The State Republican, Hosmer & Kerr, also had a paragraph in which the public was thanked for its efforts to save the building. "You saved us in the hour of need—words cannot express our gratitude," the note read.

The two incendiaries were brothers named Bobier, other names having been assumed. They were farmers from Alaeidon township who came to Lansing to sell wheat, got thoroughly drunk, went wild, fired several buildings. They had assumed their names six weeks before their visit, for reasons not disclosed.

Rumbles of the fire appeared in The State Republican, on successive weeks, as follows:

November 10: "The publication of the Journal will be resumed on Thursday of this week." (Making it November 12).

February 2, 1858: "BOBIER GONE—We learn that this nice young man has broken from the Mason Bastile, and escaped. He will be likely to give Lansing a wide berth; for should he be caught here, all the Doctors could not save him.

"P. S. We learn that he has been re-taken, and lodged in the Mason jail."

May 4, 1858: "CONVICTED—Wm. Bobier has also been convicted of arson, in setting the fire here last fall; and both the promising brothers have ten years of service to the state before them. The way of the transgressor is hard."





Where the Indian once roved, sharing with the wild beasts of forest and field that freedom that an untamed Nature bestowed, today stands Lansing, great industrial center of a great industrial state. In towers of steel and concrete it grows, ever upward, as evidenced in this picture of the Capital Bank tower—26 stories in height—the tallest building between Detroit and Chicago, telling its silent story of Michigan's fair capital city, its growth, and the faith of its people in its destiny. The picture was taken

May 20, 1930

POPULATION OF LANSING 78,425

**City Keeps Rank as Fifth In
State Despite Big Gain in
Race with Saginaw**

EAST LANSING IS 4,372

**College City Shows Greater
Gain; Narrow City Limits
Minimize Showing**

Lansing's population for 1930 is 78,425.

Showing an increase of 21,098 in population during the past 10 years, the Capital City retains its rank of fifth city in Michigan, according to figures released Monday morning by Floyd G. Randall, supervisor of census for the Lansing district.

Lansing is exceeded in 1930 figure only by Detroit, Grand Rapids, Flint and Saginaw, with the last named city only a few thousand ahead.

East Lansing increased more than 100 per cent in the past 10 years, from 1,889 in 1920 to 4,372 in 1930,

Journal Growing Faster than City

The circulation of The State Journal has increased even faster than the city, a comparison of the census figures for the past 10 years with those of The State Journal's circulation total, show. The State Journal as of May 17, 1920, had a circulation of 27,854. The city's population at that time was 57,327. The present circulation of The State Journal as of May 17, 1930, is 43,965. In the 10-year period The State Journal circulation made a gain of 63.3 per cent. The gain of the city's population was 36.8 per cent.

a net increase of 2,483, according to figures for the College City, also released Monday.

The department of commerce estimate for 1930 gave Lansing 87,240, while the count shows the city far above that figure. Lansing's increase was 36.8 per cent. During the past decade, East Lansing's estimate was placed at 4,000.

Over 90,000 in Area

While figures on Lansing township are not yet available it is unofficially estimated that the township, exclusive of Lansing and East Lansing, will show a population of about 8,000 persons.

The population figures on Lansing is a count only of the people residing within the corporate limits of the city. Thousands of Lansingites, who work in the city, reside in an area outside the city limits but generally are regarded as part of Lansing's population. The population, therefore, of the Lansing area, which would include most of Lansing township and East Lansing would bring the total population above the 90,000 mark.

The sixth ward of Lansing shows the largest population of any of the eight wards, the census compilation shows. In that ward reside 16,055 persons. The fourth ward is second in size with a population of 13,468 and the fifth ward third with 10,874.

The largest precinct in the city is the third of the third ward which shows a population of 3,640.

The population by wards follows:

First Ward	10,206
Second Ward	6,222
Third Ward	3,640
Fourth Ward	13,468
Fifth Ward	10,874
Sixth Ward	16,055
Seventh Ward	8,802
Eighth Ward	5,238

The population of the city in 1920 over 1910 showed an increase of 5,000 more than the increase shown between 1920 and 1930, the census figures reveal.

In 1920 the population of 57,327 was 26,098 greater than that of 1910 which was 31,229. The 1930 figure is 21,098 greater than that of 1920.

Lansing's gain in census this year over the 1920 figures is exceeded only by three other cities thus far reported—Dearborn, Grand Rapids and Pontiac. Dearborn's gain over 1920 was 45,124, Pontiac's 31,371, and Grand Rapids, 30,600.

Count 2,000,000 in State

Approximately 2,000,000 persons had been counted in the 15th census in Michigan by noon Monday.



